

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TELECONFERENCE
February 9, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Lynn Bittel, Vince Chowdhury, Demetra English, Erica Howard, Teri Marquantte, Bill Moran, and Hayley Reddish

Members Absent: Marcella Barnett, Linda Savage, *Charlene Wisler-Howard
***Excused**

**Late Arrivals/
Early Departures:** N/A

Staff Present: Rodney Milton, Brittany McGaughy

Guests Present: Jessica Prosser, Liz Fuselier, Jeff Hancock, Cecilia Zapata, Traci Burton

Roll Call

Chairperson Lynn Bittel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and roll call followed.

Approval of Agenda

Teri Marquantte motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Vince Chowdhury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Bill Moran motioned to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2020 meeting as presented. Vince Chowdhury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Vince Chowdhury motioned to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting as presented. Teri Marquantte seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Committee Member Briefings - open

Lynn Bittel called for the election of officers. Vince Chowdhury nominated Teri Marquantte for the Chairperson position. Hayley Reddish seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Teri Marquantte accepted the position as Chairperson. Teri Marquantte continued to take over the meeting as Chairperson and introduced the next nomination.

Elections for Vice Chairperson were presented by Teri Marquantte. Vince Chowdhury nominated Hayley Reddish as Vice Chairperson and Teri Marquantte seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Hayley Reddish accepted the position as Vice Chairperson.

Elections for 2nd Vice Chairperson were presented by Teri Marquante. Lynn Bittel nominated Jason Schneider and Vince Chowdhury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jason Schneider accepted the position as 2nd Vice Chairperson.

Teri Marquante introduced Rodney Milton, CD Manger, and communications from staff were presented by Rodney Milton.

Communications from Staff

a. CD Manager Updates – Rodney Milton, Manager

Rodney gave some background information about himself and experience in Housing and Community Development. He served the City of Atlanta for nearly a decade holding the position of Assistant Director of Neighborhood Revitalization in the Department of City Planning. He proceeded to share the following division updates to the committee.

- **COVID response updates- Rental Assistance update, Homelessness Update**

Rodney declared we are in hopes of using the \$11 million dollars received in early January towards rental assistance. Previously, we served over 600 households with approximately \$2.2 million dollars in assistance.

Jessica Prosser provided an update on the Homelessness Program. The e-Shelter, located at 3293 Oakland Street, Aurora, CO, has created a safe space for social distancing during the cold weather months. Jessica advised that ESG COVID dollars are being used to fund this space. The e-Shelter serves about 80 people per night, 7 days per week with shelter. It also allowed safe outdoor camping with about 30 fishing tents set up on pallets that included running electricity, generators, port-o-lets, hand-washing stations, and other warming tents located on the west side of the e-Shelter space. This safe outdoor camping space was created in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 positive cases. This space is used for those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are able to safely quarantine away from those who have not tested positive that are staying inside the warehouse/shelter. This space was created in about 10 days with the amazing help of engineers from Without Borders and 4 different departments within the City of Aurora. Mile High Behavioral Health is providing rapid testing at this location. Jessica stated that an individual tested positive with sequencing similar to the UK Variant. The Tri-County Health and Department of Public Health and Environment assisted with operation of the shelter. This led to contact-tracing of 202 individuals and quarantined 94 individuals that were served with Public Health orders with hotel stay and care.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **CDBG-CV- Recommendations update**

Rodney presented updates pertaining to the CDBG-CV recommendations. He stated 10 applicants were awarded with CDBG-CV funding for services such as providing baby formula, diapers, food delivery, veteran's counseling and case management.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **Gap Financing Release- Evaluation requests**

Rodney introduced Liz Fuselier, who provided updates regarding Gap Financing. The application for GAP Financing opened and was posted on the City's website on February

1st. It was also sent 20 different organizations. It is expected to use about \$2.5 million dollars in CDBG-Gap Financing money. February 19th, 2021 will be the closing date for applications in the first round. The second round is expected to open around Mid-March or early April. Liz advised that the second round will be focused on Private Activity Bonds. There is about \$21 million available in Private Activity Bond money to be spent.

- **Housing Strategy update**

Rodney explained the Housing Strategy is now in the implementation phase. Internal departments have come together to recap the 12 strategies, six policy initiatives and to reaffirm the top six priorities. Working groups have been created to help organize this implementation. The working group 'Production and Preservation' will work on the pipeline of development such as rental housing and home ownership. The working group 'Process and Places' is looking at locations in Aurora that make most sense to have different activities take place. The 'People' working group that will focus on the people and relations side of things such as tenant protections, down payment assistance and rental assistance. This committee will be an essential partner in providing feedback and direction when it comes to communicating the strategy to the public. Rodney also explained that the Housing Strategy's top priority actions include developing a detailed housing financial strategy, identifying and supporting a demonstration or pilot project and conducting inventory of suitable and available public land.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- b. **Loan Write-Offs – Jeff Hancock, Financial Supervisor**

Jeff Hancock presented the Write-off report.

Communications from Committee

- Lynn Bittel thanked the CDBG-CV panelists for their work on reviewing the CDBG applications.
- Cat Vielma announced she is relocating out of Aurora to Denver and will no longer be a member on the CHD Advisory Committee.
- Lynn Bittel asked for the status of the applications for new members since we have some member openings. Jessica Prosser advised that we will be setting up interviews for these new applications. Brittany Mcgaughy stated the City Clerk's office received 5 new applications. Brittany will be reaching out to Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and 2nd Vice Chairperson to coordinate time to interview potential new members.

Adjournment

- Bill Moran motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lynn Bittel seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Minutes taken by:

Brittany McGaughy 04/21/2021
Brittany McGaughy Date
Administrative Specialist
Housing and Community Services Department

Minutes reviewed by:

Rodney M. Milton, Jr. 04/23/2021
Rodney Milton, Manager Date
Community Development Division

Minutes approved by:

Teri Marquante 4/21/2021
Teri Marquante, Chairperson Date