

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TELECONFERENCE**

December 14, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marcella Barnett, Lynn Bittel, Jaime Carolina, Demetra English, Teri Marquantte, Brittany Noble, Hayley Reddish, Jason Schneider
Members Absent: Charlene Wisher-Howard, Vince Chowdhury, Erica Howard
***Excused**

**Late Arrivals/
Early Departures:**

Staff Present: Rodney Milton, Jeff Hancock, Jacquelyn Bayard

Guests Present: N/A

Roll Call

Chairperson Teri Marquantte called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and roll call followed.

Approval of Agenda

Jason Schneider motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Hayley Reddish seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Jason Schneider motioned to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 meeting as presented. Hayley Reddish seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Janel Anderson attended as a guest as she is an applicant for CHD and was interviewed on December 14. Her application will be moving forward to the City Clerk to pass along for approval by City Council.

Committee Member Briefings - open

None.

Communications from Staff

a. CD Manager Updates – Rodney Milton, Manager

- **Housing Strategy Update**

Rodney notified the group that the state has awarded the city about \$112,000 to further the housing strategy. These funds will be used to (1) explore feasibility of programs and (2) if they are determined to be feasible, what the program design would look like. The programs applied for are a fee waiver program, infrastructure subsidies, and inclusionary zoning.

Lynn mentioned a project in Florida where entire communities are being built, providing 20,000 units. He encouraged everyone to think about where in Aurora has large tracts of land where something like that might be possible.

Rodney shared that the working groups will go from meeting every two weeks to every month, and quarterly meetings for the whole team.

- **Homelessness Notice of Funding (NOFO)**

41 applications were submitted for the NOFO that was released at the end of November. Scoring is complete and Lana Dalton has aggregated the scores so the funding recommendations will go to council. These funds will be able to support safe outdoor spaces, homeless prevention services, and other important activities.

Teri pointed out that while there was only \$4.7 million available, they received \$14 million worth of applications. She said it was uplifting to see how many people are thinking about ways to do more in these arenas, especially homelessness prevention.

- **Community Investments Winter NOFO**

The Community Investments Winter NOFO will be released in January. The state doesn't release their funds and programs until March, and many of the developers the city works with want a commitment from their respective jurisdictions before going to the state so they can strengthen their application. When developers call Rodney, he tracks potential projects on a list which currently has about 900 units of potential affordable housing opportunities. He then works with internal departments to coordinate how the developers move through the process. Rodney pointed out that they don't want to open the NOFO up too quickly so they can evaluate who is ready and who has the strongest application.

- **Rodney's Departure**

Rodney announced that he has accepted a new position and his last day with the city is December 31, 2021. Bobbi Abbotts will be the interim director with support from Jeff as well as the new Administrative Specialist that will support Community Development, Billye Williams.

Lynn asked Teri if a decision has been made regarding future CHD meeting locations. Teri said they will need to play it by ear given holiday travel, but she is glad to learn there are so many potential meeting places.

Loan Write-Offs – Jeff Hancock, Finance Supervisor

Jeff Hancock presented the write-off report. There were no loan write-offs in November. There have been a handful of properties that the city has provided assistance to in the past that went to foreclosure, but the city didn't lose money because of the strong real estate market. Investors purchase properties for more than what was owed so the city is able to redeem liens and get money back. Jeff noted that there has been an uptick in foreclosures in Aurora. The program income for November was lighter than the past few months, but was still pretty good: HOME had \$77,000 in program income and CDBG had under \$8,000. He reiterated that the numbers for the year are very strong with HOME having \$1.6 million in program income (more than the annual HUD grant for HOME) and CDBG having \$157,000.

Lynn asked if the reason why people aren't selling their homes when in foreclosure is because a new home would cost more. Jeff explained that there are a variety of reasons including difficulties qualifying for a new mortgage, family disputes, and lack of knowledge.

CHD Accomplishments 2021/Priorities for 2022/Briefing New Council

With 2022 right around the corner and the addition of several new council members, Rodney encouraged the group to think about what CHD has accomplished in 2021 and what their priorities are for 2022. He noted there is an opportunity to share this information with council, and although there is not a set council meeting for this purpose, the other committees probably plan to do the same. Two big accomplishments he pointed out were the two rounds of funding that went out as well as moving the housing strategy forward.

Before he leaves, Rodney will share any information he thinks would be useful as well as what he has already put together. He will also create a PowerPoint template that will lay out the beginning, accomplishments, priorities, etc. and he will work with Jeff to add the slides from the budget presentation. This template will be shared with the group so everyone will be able to edit it.

Communications from Committee

Lynn suggested the new Community Development manager follow up on the 20,000 units being built in Florida with different levels that he mentioned earlier in the meeting.

Adjournment

Hayley Reddish motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lynn Bittel seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Minutes taken by: _____

Bayard

1/12/2022

Jacquelyn Bayard
Administrative Supervisor
Housing and Community Services Department

Date

Minutes reviewed by:

Barbara Abbotts

Jan 12, 2022

Barbara Abbotts (Jan 12, 2022 12:51 MST)

~~Rodney Milton~~ *Barbara Abbotts*
Community Development Manager (acting)
Housing and Community Services Department

Date

Minutes approved by:

Teri Marquantte
Teri Marquantte, Chairperson

1/11/2022

Date


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Final Audit Report

2022-01-12

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