

City of Worcester, Massachusetts

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager



Michael E. Traynor
Chief Development Officer
Executive Office of Economic Development

Gregory J. Baker, Director
Neighborhood Development Division

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
01/11/2017
Saxe Room
Worcester Public Library
Worcester, MA
5:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

CDAC Present: Edward Moynihan, Dana Strong, Paula Stuart, Daniel Whalen, Doug Arbetter, Matthew Yalouris, Nicola D'Andrea, Martha Assefa

CDAC Absent: None

City Staff: Greg Baker, Steve Hill, Tony Miloski, Zach Gustafson

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ed Moynihan at 5:00 p.m.

2) CDAC Member Introductions & Meeting Format Overview

Ed Moynihan introduced all CDAC members, and noted that two (2) vacancies remain on CDAC, one each for District 2 and District 5. Those in attendance and watching the proceedings were encouraged to apply on the city website if interested in volunteering on this or other committees.

A brief overview of the evening's meeting format was presented by Ed Moynihan.

3) YR 43 / FY 2018 CDBG Applicant Presentations

The following is a summary of each applicant presentation commencement time, presenters names, and key questions asked of the presenters by CDAC members. Full presentations, including all dialogue and responses, is made available by clicking on the following web links which provide a complete video archive of the proceedings:

<http://ec4.cc/aq33b974> Part 1

<http://ec4.cc/aq7ecec7> Part 2

5:03 pm	<p>Business & Community Development Division (Economic Development Dept.) - Paul Morano presented the Façade Program, Microloan Program, and Small Business Grant program.</p> <p>Doug Arbetter asked how the City ensures the microloans are targeted to ensure the employment of low- to moderate-income individuals.</p>
5:08 pm	<p>Housing Development Division (Economic Development Dept.) – James Brooks presented the Affordable Housing Programs (down payment assistance, owner occupied & rental rehabilitation, lead paint abatement).</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if the programs were restricted to Union Hill and Pleasant Street, or if they could target other locations such as Lower Main South.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked how potential program participants are made aware of the opportunity.</p> <p>Nicola D’Andrea asked if there was recourse should recipients default on their mortgage or foreclose.</p>
5:13 pm	<p>Inspectional Services Department – Amanda Wilson presented the Systematic Housing Inspection and Demolition of Spot Slum and Blight programs.</p> <p>Daniel Whalen asked how locations were identified for inspections.</p> <p>Dana Strong asked if the requested CDBG funds would support the inspectors’ expected annual work program or if it is above and beyond.</p> <p>Doug Arbetter asked about the nature of owner involvement in demolitions.</p> <p>Doug Arbetter asked about insurance claims associated with demolition.</p>
5:20 pm	<p>Neighborhood Development Division (Economic Development Dept.) - Greg Baker presented the Neighborhood Development Fund (road resurfacing, sidewalk re-construction, streetscape improvements).</p> <p>Martha Assefa asked how the specific area on the map of Pleasant Street in the RFP was chosen.</p> <p>Dana Strong observed there are not many residential properties in the target area near Park Ave and the bulk of residents would be located on the eastern end near Main Street and inquired how segments of Pleasant Street were chosen for improvements.</p> <p>Dana Strong asked if the eastern portion of Pleasant street up to the intersection with Main Street is on the City’s radar for future investment.</p> <p>Ed asked if Crown Hill district would be involved and if there are concerns with the historic district and/or buildings in that vicinity.</p>
5:26 pm	<p>Boys & Girls Club of Worcester – Liz Hamilton presented the proposed Harrington Clubhouse HVAC Upgrades.</p> <p>Dana Strong commented on the young age of the facility (10 years), and asked what recourse was available since some of the proposed upgrades were supposed to have been installed/configured when the facility was originally constructed.</p> <p>Nicola D’Andrea requested clarification that the existing HVAC system was supposed to have been configured for central computer control when originally installed.</p> <p>Dana Strong commented that the original HVAC subcontractor would have been hired by a general contractor, and asked if the general contractor had or could</p>

	<p>be contacted.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked how the HVAC system will be addressed if CDBG funds are not received.</p>
5:32 pm	<p>Dismas House – Molly Hourigan presented the proposed Solar Porch Installation Solar Porch at Father Brooks House.</p> <p>Doug Arbetter asked if financial support from other sources has been solicited.</p> <p>Nicola D’Andrea asked how many residents served by the program.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if Dismas House would own or lease the solar panels upon project completion.</p>
5:36 pm	<p>Kennedy Community Health Ctr. – Jose Ramirez (with Scott Boudreau) presented the proposed Phase III Tacoma Street Facility Improvements (Lighting upgrade, floor replacement, replace park bench).</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked for an update on the YR 41 Tacoma Street Facility upgrades funded by CDBG.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if the YR 41 improvements would be completed prior to start of YR 42.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked how extensive the lighting replacement would be.</p> <p>Doug Arbetter inquired about the ownership of the previous bus stop bench.</p>
5:42 pm	<p>Friendly House – Gordon Hargrove presented the proposed Gym Air Conditioning Installation and Windows upgrade.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan requested clarification of the amount requested for the proposed upgrades.</p> <p>Daniel Whalen asked what triggered the need for the proposed air conditioning project.</p>
5:47 pm	<p>Jeremiah’s Inn – Molly Hourigan presented the proposed Exterior Rehabilitations (Repair & Painting building exterior) on behalf of Jeremiah’s Inn. There were no questions.</p>
5:50 pm	<p>Oak Hill CDC – Mullen Sawyer (with Tim Firment of Habitat for Humanity) presented the proposed Charles Buffone Park Renovations (99 Penn Avenue).</p> <p>Dana Strong asked about the type, size, and use of the proposed park.</p> <p>Dana Strong and Nicola D’Andrea asked about the status of the design.</p> <p>Doug Arbetter asked if the previous use of the land, a community garden, had been installed to meet an identified community need.</p>
5:57 pm	<p>Veterans Inc. – Jason Palitsch presented the proposed Elevator Installation project.</p> <p>Paula Stuart requested clarification of the building layout.</p> <p>Paula Stuart repeated question about use of the space inside the building.</p>
6:02 pm	<p>Worcester Common Ground – Charise Canales presented the proposed Community Park Installation project (Newbury Community Parklet).</p> <p>Doug Arbetter asked if the park would be closed overnight.</p> <p>Doug Arbetter asked when that would occur.</p>

	<p>Martha Assefa and Ed Moynihan inquired about the exact location of the park.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan inquired about ownership of the land.</p> <p>Paula Stuart asked how the park would be maintained, if renovated.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if garden beds would be part of the plan, and would they be available to neighbors.</p>
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Ed Moynihan announced a fifteen (15) minute CDAC recess at 6:08 p.m.

6:35 pm	<p>African Community Education – Kaska Yawo presented the After School Program.</p> <p>Nicola D’Andrea asked if kids who are not in Worcester Public Schools are eligible. Kaska replied yes.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if CDBG funding would allow expansion of the program. Kaska responded affirmatively.</p> <p>Dana Strong asked the location of their office. Kaska provided the location.</p>
6:40 pm	<p>Centro Las Americas – Roberto Diaz presented the Case Management services and Emergency Food Pantry program.</p> <p>Paula Stuart asked how many clients per month does the case manager work with.</p> <p>Paula Stuart asked how many unduplicated clients would receive services with CDBG funding.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if CDBG funds support staff, and where the food comes from if not purchased with CDBG funds.</p>
6:45 pm	<p>The City of Worcester Elder Affairs – Amy Waters presented the Senior Center’s Healthy Aging Club 60+ program.</p> <p>Daniel Whalen asked about the criteria used to determine participant eligibility given differing levels of ability and health amongst seniors.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if the program is currently operating.</p> <p>Paula Stuart asked about additional funding sources.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked how the program could ensure that participants are low to moderate income if it is available to anyone.</p>
6:52 pm	<p>The Community Builders – Anne Vinnick presented the Future Leaders of America program.</p> <p>Paula Stuart asked for clarification about the ratio of kids to staff.</p> <p>Dana Strong asked if the program would only be open to Plumley Village residents.</p>
6:57 pm	<p>Dismas House – Molly Hourigan presented the BAR None program. There were no questions.</p>
7:01 pm	<p>Family Health Center – Frances Anthes presented Emergency Dental Services.</p> <p>Dana Strong confirmed forty (40) clients were served last year, and asked how many would be served with this CDBG funding.</p>
7:07 pm	<p>Friendly House – Gordon Hargrove presented Case Management, Youth Development, and Quinsigamond Village Services.</p> <p>Doug Arbetter asked if the youth development services offered program elements</p>

	specifically for LGBT youth.
7:16 pm	<p>Oak Hill CDC – Mullen Sawyer presented the Homeownership Stabilization & Development Services.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if the program is ongoing.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked the reason for requesting funding.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked about unduplicated clients.</p> <p>Paula Stuart asked how the \$48 million dollar return is calculated.</p> <p>Martha Assefa asked if CDBG used to support programs like this.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if the program was intended for Union Hill, or city-wide.</p> <p>Nicola D’Andrea asked what recourse there is if buyers default.</p>
7:23 pm	<p>Rachel’s Table – Carla Szymanski presented the Children’s Milk Fund.</p> <p>Martha Assefa asked if Gibson’s Dairy was working with any local dairy farms.</p>
7:27 pm	<p>Regional Environmental Council – Steve Fisher presented the UGROW program.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if the funding would support an existing or new program manager.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked about the roles and responsibilities of that position.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if the program works with Worcester Public Schools.</p>
7:33 pm	<p>Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA – Anh Vu Sawyer presented the Case Management program with some assistance from program staff. There were no questions posed by CDAC members.</p>
7:39 pm	<p>South Worcester Neighborhood Center – Ron Charrette presented the Youth Recreation and Case Management Services.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked what the impact of CDBG funding would be.</p>
7:47 pm	<p>Worcester Community Action Council – Carrick O’Brien presented the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.</p> <p>Dana Strong asked if the skills volunteers learned are officially translatable to professional settings.</p>
7:51 pm	<p>Worcester Housing Authority – Alex Corrales presented the Better Life Program and Transporting Elderly to Senior Center.</p> <p>Martha Assefa inquired about the eviction policy.</p> <p>Matthew Yalouris asked the number of families that fully graduated out of public housing last year.</p> <p>Matthew Yalouris asked how many of those families had returned to public housing.</p> <p>Paula Stuart asked the type of housing these families move in to.</p>
8:00 pm	<p>YouthConnectWorcester – Tony Poti presented the YouthConnect Summer program.</p> <p>Nicola D’Andrea asked what time the bus will run.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked if the bus would be operated by the City of Worcester.</p> <p>Ed Moynihan asked how much they received last year in comparison to the current</p>

	year request.
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4) Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:06 p.m., which Ed Moynihan accepted.