MEETING MINUTES
HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 7:30 P.M.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 2404


Staff Present: S. Flax

Presiding Member: Ald. Rainey, Chair

Declaration of Quorum
There being a quorum, Chairman Rainey called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2012 Meeting
Ald. Wilson moved approval of the minutes of the October 23, 2012 meeting; Ms. Hansen seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Input on the 2012 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report
Ald. Rainey noted the terrible weather (snowstorm) and that no members of the public were present to make public comment on the 2012 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). Staff commented that two additional emails were sent to people who have asked to receive information about CDBG, including one today, reminding them of the meeting and, because of the weather, that comments could be submitted in writing in addition to at the meeting.

Staff noted three corrections/changes to the draft CAPER posted on 2/22/13 for public comment. The CAPER draft had to be posted before the 2012 yearend financial close and the additional expense were identified by Finance staff as they reviewed all 2012 expenditures:
- Increase in expenditures in CDBG Administration by $605.79 reflected in narrative on p. 1 and tables on pp. 1, 4, 18 and 19. Finance staff made this change on 3/5/13.
- HOME expenditures were not correctly reflected in the table on p. 4. Correction added $59,038.47 to spending for Decent Housing/Affordability, changing the amount spent in this category by less than 1% of total spending. Total HOME spending on p. 1 was correct.
- Narrative on p. 12 corrected to one Section 3 worker hired on the Alley Paving project.

Ald. Wilson moved that the committee recommend approval of the CAPER to City Council at its meeting on 3/18/13; Ms. Hansen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Ald. Rainey requested staff to provide a note about the corrections to Ald. Wilson and her prior to the 3/18/13 Council meeting. All corrections will be made and any public comment received in writing will be included in the CAPER submitted to City Council on 3/18/13.
Public Input on Community Needs for 2014 CDBG Planning
As there were no members of the public present, Ald. Rainey opened the floor for input from committee members and staff. Discussion included the expectation of additional cuts to programs and services at both the federal and state level. Federal cuts would impact Housing Choice voucher holders, but timing and other specifics are unclear; it appears that each housing authority will be responsible for developing its plan to reduce spending. Staff commented that the reduction in eligible household income level for homeless prevention assistance in ESG from \( \leq 50\% \) of area median income (AMI) used in the Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing Program to \(< 30\% \) AMI was having significant impact because Evanston is a high cost housing market and there is a significant shortage of apartments affordable to households with incomes \(< 30\% \) AMI.

Mr. Opdycke inquired what impact the modification to the City’s Local Employment Ordinance from contracts of $500,000 or more to $250,000 or more had on local hiring and economic development. Issues that could create challenges to local hiring in some circumstances, such as the requirement to hire union members for projects with union contractors, were discussed. Ald. Rainey explained that in some cases, local businesses did not understand the City’s procurement process and bidding requirements, citing the discussion relating to a City RFP for repair of transmissions of City vehicles, and that additional support was needed to help local firms compete for smaller purchases of this type. Staff explained that all CDBG subrecipients with capital projects receive a list with minority- and woman-owned, Evanston-based, and Section 3 businesses for bidding purposes and that a number of local and Section 3 companies had received contracts as a result of this process. Staff noted that employment services, particularly programs with internships/direct work experience, continued to be a high need. Ald. Rainey noted efforts in the area, including the Youth Job Center’s programs funded in part by the City.

It was agreed that public input on needs for 2014 planning would be included as an agenda item for the April 23 meeting to provide additional opportunity to members of the community.

Update on 2013 CDBG Funding
Staff related that the HUD Chicago field office indicated that letters were starting to be sent to state and local governments this week. Specific impact of the sequester on the City’s entitlement grants is not known, but reductions from 2012 seem almost certain. In addition, action is required by Congress by March 27 to extend the Continuing Resolution or otherwise resolve the 2013 federal budget in order to prevent a government shut-down.

Adjournment
As there were no additional Staff Reports/Communication, Public Comment or other business before the committee, Ald. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM; the motion was seconded by Ms. Hansen and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah K. Flax
Housing & Grants Administrator, Community & Economic Development Department