MEETING MINUTES
HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - LORRAINE MORTON CIVIC CENTER
2100 RIDGE AVE., EVANSTON, ILLINOIS


Members Absent:  Ald. Burrus, S. Opdycke, J. Vlahogiannis,

Staff Present:  S. Flax, M. Muenzer, B. Newman

Presiding Member:  Ald. Rainey, Chair

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM
There being a quorum, Chairman Rainey called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Chair Rainey welcomed everyone to the second proposal review meeting for the Community Development Block Grant distribution of funds for 2014.

2014 CDBG PROGRAM—REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

1. YWCA Evanston/North Shore/Domestic Violence Services
   1215 Church St. Evanston; 24Hr Domestic Violence Hotline: 877-718-1868
   Admin: 847-864-8445 www.YWCA.org/evanston info@gwcans.org

Karen Singer, CEO of the YWCA, said she is glad to be back before the Committee for the 10th year and they are requesting $40,000 for the CDBG Public Service and $66,750 for Public Facilities funding.

Ms. Singer stated that the YWCA Evanston/North Shore Domestic Violence Program is the only comprehensive domestic violence program in the entire northeastern Chicago suburban area. She said 1 in 4 women are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives and 3 women and 1 man are killed by their domestic partners each day. She noted an article that stated that between the years 2000 and 2006, 3,200 American soldiers were killed but domestic homicide claimed an infuriating and astounding 11,000 lives during the same period.

She explained that no matter where they are in their journey to end the violence against them, women can access the 24-hour hotline providing shelter services, legal remedies, education and counseling, all of which help women get and stay safe. She explained that education and prevention are the keys to ending the problem. These services are
available 24 hours to help women escape the terror in their homes at the emergency shelter and they can receive counseling, so that when they come to understand that they are being abused and need to leave their situation, the program makes it possible for them to do so as safely as possible, helps them obtain restraining orders through their legal advocacy program at the Skokie courthouse and receive counseling, and that all of these services are critical.

CDBG funds currently provide 2% of the Domestic Violence Program budget; 17% of their clients are Evanston residents; 195 use the hotline; 36% counseling and 16% legal advocacy. She thanked the Committee for their support for so many years.

Ald. Holmes asked whether counseling is provided for housing once clients leave their shelter, to which Ms. Singer replied that she will start developing a plan to include it. Currently they provide subsidized housing, transitional shelter from the time they enter the program until they leave. Ms. Singer said she will look at other communities’ contacts with landlords and management companies. At Ald. Holmes’ inquiry as to what happens after 3 months if they have not found housing, Ms. Singer said they may move in with friends or family and sometimes they do choose to go back to their abuser.

Chair Rainey thanked her for all their work.

2. YWCA Evanston/North Shore/Shelter Renovations

1215 Church St. Evanston; 24Hr Domestic Violence Hotline: 877-718-1868
Admin: 847-864-8445 www.YWCA.org/evanston Info@gwcans.org

Ms. Singer introduced Charles Smith, Facilities Manager, who is overseeing the renovation of their 100-year-old building on Church and Ridge, for which they are requesting $66,750. Mr. Smith explained that there are 11 sleeping rooms with 2-4 beds and 11 bathrooms that need to be upgraded to a level of safety. This is the second phase of the electrical renovations for which they are requesting funds. This area of the shelter has not been upgraded in decades. The fans and light fixtures are in constant need of repair and their goal is to upgrade all once and for all creating an energy efficient, safe system.

At Ms. Sanke’s inquiry, Mr. Smith explained that they were not able to finish the project with the 2013 funding; that covered work to the ground floor, including the kitchen, and the basement but not the second and third floors that house the residents. He added that the 2013 proposal was for wiring only; this request includes new light fixtures and fans. They had an energy audit that indicated that their lights and fixtures are using so much power that changing them would save them a great deal of money.

At Chair Rainey’s request, Mr. Smith agreed to submit additional information that details the difference in costs from 2013 to 2014 request.

Chair Rainey thanked them.
Mary Matz, Senior Development Officer, explained that Shore is a not-for-profit organization working with children and adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. She said the $67,038 request for CDBG funding is for the purpose of making improvements at the Patricia Lloyd Townhomes: five 2-story attached units located at 1823-1831 Brummel in Evanston, built in 1955. 4 units provide residency for 7 low-income adults with mild intellectual and other developmental disabilities; a house manager who provides weekly case management and other support to the residents and oversees the maintenance lives in the 5th unit. Their program provides living arrangements, case management, goals and a House Manager.

The rehab projects they are proposing are:
1) Replace kitchen in a unit that has original kitchen from 1955 that is in need of more storage space and is not in good shape
3) Remodel 3 bathrooms: The unit at 1823 is original and the other 2 have had minor improvements. They would like to modernize the bathrooms with the installation of grab bars and bathtubs with lower sides. As their residents age, they are having issues with mobility. They would also install exhaust fans that would help control the humidity in the units.

Ms. Matz explained that resident outcomes are measured against three goals set for the fiscal year for the 16 residents in the Supported Living Arrangement (SLA) program, comprising the town homes and scattered site apartments in Evanston and Skokie.
1) Residents maintain their current level of independent living throughout the year
2) 81%, or 13 of 16 SLA residents, will increase their community involvement through involvement in 3 outside community activities
3) 94%, or 15 out of 16 residents, will maintain their residential placement.

Chair Rainey said these are her neighbors and in the almost 28 years she has lived in the 1700 block of Dobson, she knows of no issue ever generated from the town houses. She commended Shore on doing a wonderful job assimilating their residents into the community. She said the exterior of the building could use some work, but that has nothing to do with the residents, it is just a tired looking building.

Ms. Matz said the program runs at an approximately $50,000 deficit, providing affordable housing and other services based on their income minus the cost of their medication, insurance, etc., helping their clients to be as independent as possible.

Chair Rainey asked Ms. Matz to let the residents know they can call her if they have any issue with which she can be of assistance, to which Ms. Matz replied that the branches on the trees of the public way could be cut back. Chair Rainey asked her to call the City and call her to follow up if needed.

Chair Rainey thanked her.

1000 Grove, Evanston  www.mcgawymca.org
Jonathan Webb, Chief Development Officer of the McGaw YMCA, introduced John Mroczka, Residence Director, thanked the Committee for their time and attentiveness in considering the requests for CDBG grants from their organization.

Mr. Webb explained that their request for $23,804 in funding is for security cameras for the men’s residential floors. They have 172 resident member rooms on three floors for low and very low income men. They support 250 men annually. Currently they have five security cameras in the laundry lounge and fire escape. A consultant advised them that they need 21 more cameras to improve the health, physical safety and mental health of the members.

Mr. Mroczka explained that 74% of their residents are 51 and older with chronic illnesses; He related an incident where a resident with cancer had bumped his head and was unconscious and no one was aware until a staff member found him in the hall. They did not know how long he had been unconscious and he could have lost his life. A camera in the hall would have helped them find him sooner.

The cameras would also allow them to prevent substance abuse that could observed by the cameras in the hallways. Unauthorized visitors and unsavory behavior by residents and their visitors cause the other men to feel unsafe. They will not tattle however, when it occurs, so the cameras are needed to be the witness. One of the residents had been peeling paint off the walls as a result of his OCD and the cameras would help them identify who is doing it and get him help.

Mr. Mroczka explained that the YMCA is a cause-driven charitable organization that exists for the purpose of strengthening the community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. They serve the community in a wide variety of ways, from early childhood education to affordable housing.

Chair Rainey asked whether there is a tenant committee to which Mr. Mroczka replied that there is a committee with 2 residents on it, but they have yet to give input. Chair Rainey said she is concerned about the intrusion aspect of the cameras, to which Mr. Mroczka replied that they will try to have a group meeting for each of the 6 floors to discuss it.

Chair Rainey advised them that the Police Department would do a survey for them and advise where they need cameras, which may be better than getting advice from the camera company.

Ald. Braithwaite asked about the electrical prep work and cable and staff’s strategy in monitoring the cameras to which Mr. Mroczka replied that there is an icon on his monitor that allows him to monitor activity from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., the time frame for substance abuse and unauthorized visitors. Mr. Mroczka explained that half of the men have come from homeless shelters. Sometimes a resident’s friend will visit and when the resident goes to the washroom, he comes back and his TV is gone. The cameras will help them identify who is doing the theft. He has tried other solutions such as standing in the hall to see if a resident has an unauthorized/after-hours visitor, and has hired female staff, but none are effective at catching the culprits.
Chair Rainey requested that Mr. Mroczka call the Chief of Police and request an assessment of their camera needs and have them review the estimate they received.

At Ms. Hansen’s inquiry, Mr. Mroczka explained that last year’s funding request was for Phase 1, which included 5 cameras, electrical wiring and a DVD recorder; Phase 2 will be for the purchase of more cameras. They have a development team working on additional funding though they have not gotten any commitments yet.

Mr. Mroczka said he would let the committee know the results of the Police survey.

5. Open Communities/Homesharing Program

Jacqueline Grossman, Homesharing Coordinator for 16 years, introduced Gail Schechter, Executive Director. Ms. Schechter explained that the Homesharing program is supported generously by the City of Evanston and explained that people with an extra room are matched with people seeking affordable rents who are employed or students in Evanston. Homesharing uses existing housing stock to create affordable housing. The program averages 30-40 matches per year, half of which are in Evanston. Ms. Schechter said that last year Interfaith Housing Center changed its name to Open Communities, bringing about inclusive housing since issues have arisen regarding immigrants’ fair housing; they are primarily a fair housing agency.

At Chair Rainey’s inquiry, Ms. Grossman said if someone calls the City of Evanston’s 311 number, they are sent to Brendan Saunders of Open Communities. Open Communities assists with security deposits, repairs and eviction and they have created Fair Housing and Landlord/Tenant brochures, available at the City. Last year they provided 200 homeowners with foreclosure counseling and 300 tenants with assistance in relation to the Landlord Tenant Ordinance. They are advocates for affordable housing and home sharing. They are asking for $15,000 to do approximately 15 matches for Evanston. Funding would be used for salaries, including expanded time by the immigration manager to work with Spanish speaking clients.

Ms. Grossman explained that she connects home owners with people who need homes. She connects people who work or live in Evanston with a person aging in their home who, for instance, cannot afford their property taxes or mortgage. She said the match making is very labor intensive: she does home visits, fills out the application with the client, does a home assessment, and looks for renters extensively, checking their income and references and interviewing them to be sure they are a good match. After the month to month lease is in place, she is always present for mediation and social services. Some matches last 6-8 months, some have lasted 8 years.

She gave an example of a widow in her 50’s who’s home is worth less than she paid for it. The tenant is paying $500 a month and helping the homeowner retain her house; the other room in the house is rented to a Russian lady who works at a nail salon. The renters share a bathroom and they all share the kitchen, garden and deck. Everyone pays for their own food and phone service.

At Ms. Sanke’s inquiry of how people find out about them, Ms. Grossman said many have found out about the organization as she has been doing this a long time. Also, she
is connected with several Evanston social service agencies; one morning a week she is at Evanston Social Services, working with the social workers at a desk she rents, also with the Domestic Violence Center, with which she has made one successful match, she runs the Niles Township Interagency Network meeting, which occurs in Skokie but includes Evanston. And she uses Craigslist and because they are an agency, scam artists are less tended to approach them because they realize they’ll be researched. She has gotten tenants from Craigslist. She declares they are an agency and that it is a free home service and describes the housing and gives only her contact information, and they must pass muster on the intake process. She speaks to approximately 600 people a year on the phone and she makes about 35 to 40 matches, so she is very careful.

Chair Rainey thanked her for their work.

6. Youth Organizations Umbrella, Inc./Nichols Center Renovations/HQ
847-866-1200 1027 Sherman www.youevanston.org
seth.green@youevanston.org

Seth Green, Executive Director, introduced Emeric Mazibuko, Youth Development Specialist with Youth Organizations Umbrella (YOU) and an Evanston resident, and explained that they have provided after school enrichment, mentorship, clinical counseling, crisis intervention, and community school leadership services in Evanston since 1971 to ensure that youth and families have the assets in their lives that they need to succeed. They serve south Evanston in the CDBG target area and the youth they serve are 93% low income, 96% minority.

Mr. Green explained that YOU has been growing rapidly. Over the last 3 years they have more than doubled their budget from $1.6 million to just over $3.2 million. They have more than doubled their staff and most importantly, have more than doubled the number of youth they are serving with a growing need (from 11% to 17%) based on the economic downturn and on a real impact. An evaluation of their services in 2012 revealed improvement in a number of family relationships and social skills and 71% improving their GPA, who were actively participating in their mentorship and after school programs. Their facility has not changed in proportion to the growth of their program. They are trying to build the infrastructure around the youth they are trying to serve. Mr. Green said the impacts of the proposal are the look and feel of the building (they believe a rundown space sends a message to the youth about their own value) and they want a facility that will help promote efficiency for their staff and their programming. They have moved toward holistic care with collaboration between their mental health therapists, their Mentorship Director and their site teams. Currently the space is not configured for that type of team-based care. They came to the CDBG Committee 2 years ago with a renovation plan, which has moved forward and they continue to renovate, but what has been added in this proposal, is that the renovation will allow them to move staff into the front half of their building and tear down the back half which is not believed to be a worthy investment, and build a new structure. AS they have expanded, they have grown their vision. They used resources from CDBG to re-do the roof and the windows on the front half and they are now preparing to do the rest of the renovation on the front, and look at the back half in future years.
At Chair Rainey’s inquiry, Mr. Green said originally they knew they did not want to invest in the back half of the building but they did not know what the appetite for donation would be to allow them to do renovations. Based on a feasibility study with a development consultant and the Board’s commitment to a 4 year process, there are $1.3 million of pledges from their Board for that set of goals which include facilities as well as some other goals. Mr. Green said that based on the feasibility study and the Board commitment, they are confident that they can move forward with this plan.

Chair Rainey clarified that the work that is being done now will complement the work that will be done in the future, which Mr. Green confirmed. They are working with Ginzler, the architectural firm, to determine what the full building looks like, so they do not have to undo any work.

Mr. Mazibuko said he works at YOU as well as the new outreach program in partnership with the City of Evanston and other agencies. He said the space says a lot about the value of the youth. It should reflect how they see the youth. It is run down but a great deal is happening, like the outreach office that is right in the front of the building with open windows and a nice space next to it that has been remodeled. You would not think there was a lot of traffic up and down Sherman but they have been able to connect with a great many kids just by being there. The nice glass windows have attracted them in a short time and they have taken ownership of this little office. It is just a small office space, but he is concerned that if this is the best they can do for the youth who already have negative feelings about themselves, the space will not support what they are saying the kids are, which is incredible young people who, if you just give them a chance, they will blow you away. He clarified that he is calling them youth, but some are 22-23 years old. He thanked the Committee for the support that has allowed them to do some of the things they have already done and said he looks forward to a partnership to continue to grow and develop the space so the participants can feel like it is a home away from home.

Ald. Braithwaite congratulated them on an awesome year. They have done a phenomenal job acquiring $350,000 in 2013 and it is not even over. He commended them for being out in the community and for Seth’s diverse staff. $90,000 is a big request so his concern is whether they have a Plan B in case they don’t get the requested CDBG funds. Mr. Green said they are making the request because that is the ideal amount but they are aware of a shrinking federal budget and tough choices. So the answer is yes, from their feasibility study, there is a great deal of data about other sources that could invest. He said currently they have information about people that are open to giving, but their generosity will depend on seeing momentum and a belief that the project can move forward successfully. Step One was their Board’s commitment but they are continuing to look to all sources to show momentum of their progress and obtain funding.

Chair Rainey thanked them very much for the good job they are doing.

The Committee took a short break.

7. Open Studio Project/Art and Action 847-475-0390
   903 Sherman, Evanston www.openstudioproject.net
Janet Beals, Executive Director, and Dayna Block, Board member and former Executive Director thanked the Committee for the many years of support for Open Studio and the Art in Action Program and explained that Open Studio has been a non-profit arts and social service agency since 1991. They are the only visual arts organization in South Evanston offering children and adults all over the Evanston, Chicago and the North Shore area a program with no criticism and no comment on the art and writing they do. They serve over 1,500 people a year by offering the unique art and writing process developed by 3 art therapists (one of whom is Dayna Block), and used in art therapy graduate programs all over the country. All kinds of people use this process to learn about themselves and the world using drawing, painting, sculpture and writing. They presented an example of the art made in the Art in Action Program, a free after-school and summer program for at-risk youth. They offer multi-week classes; from 4-7 weeks and sometimes all year, to over 400 youth and they collaborate with other organizations including YOU, Peer, District 65 and the Moran Center. Art in Action has specific outcomes: after participating, people have the increased ability to manage emotions that lead to violent behavior and demonstrate healthy emotional self expression, show an increased ability to make healthy choices regardless of outside influences such as friends and a drug culture and they are motivated towards positive lifestyles. There is also community impact because participants have a show of their work and the community learns from their experience, including their parents, teachers, social workers and their parole officers. They may be seen more as an artist than a trouble maker.

For evaluation, there is an annual plan where progress is measured and they have a strategic plan. They evaluate each youth specifically, by their participation.

Their budget is $180,000 a year. They get their funds by:
- An annual event
- Individual donors, for whom they have a campaign
- Program training, for which they are paid (as well as free programs)
- Some foundation and government funds

From CDBG they have been receiving about $3,500 a year and they are asking for an increase, which they have never done before, to $5,500. These funds serve approximately 50 youth which turns out to be $70/child for a 7 week session, which comes to $10.00 a session. They would like to serve 100 instead of 50 youth this year. YOU and Peer and District 65 are asking them to serve more of their clients, but they cannot unless it is funded. They concluded, saying they are a small program but they have a big impact on Evanston youth.

Chair Rainey thanked them and commended the program, saying it is the type of program the Committee is looking for, as they are concentrating on youth this year.

Ms. Hansen commented that she admires this program and encouraged the Committee to remember that they have never asked for an increase and what they are asking for is comparably less than other funding requests.

8. Family Focus/The Future Focus-Youth Program
2010 Dewey                    evanston@family-focus.org                  847-475-7570
www.family-focus.org
Dr. Dorothy Williams, Director of Family Focus, introduced Catarina Vararro, Director of Finance and Administration, and said Family Focus was founded in 1976 by Evanston resident, Bernice Weissbourd. The mission of Family Focus is to promote the well being of children by assisting their families and the community. They are requesting funds to continue to operate its Future Focus Youth Program for 50 teens ages 15-18 from low to moderate income families in but not limited to the 5th Ward. The funds will help serve youth that otherwise would not be served. The funding would provide a variety of programs and activities and allow flexible hours on the weekends. The program focuses on 4 components that have a positive effect on the community and the youth it serves:

Leadership:
- Helps youth uncover and develop their innate leadership abilities
- Activity created by a collaboration with Allstate Insurance Co.’s DBPA Group to provide youth technical computer skills, in which they will learn to disassemble and reassemble a laptop computer
- Interact with positive roll models in leadership positions
- Meets twice a month on Saturday at the Center
- Team focus groups, the first of which included 20 youth and met in February. The second will be held in October and they are facilitated by youth facilitators trained by Julie Rogers, who is in charge of Peaceable Cities.

Family Life/Community Life:
- Activities that teach leading, citizenship and understanding of his or her role as a good and productive citizen of their community
- Opportunities to interact with Evanston’s community leaders and organizations
- Refers families in need of counseling and social services to Evanston resources

Self Expression:
- Promotes creativity in a safe environment
- Partners with “Literature for all of Us”, who’s staff also conducts:
  - Poetry classes
  - Book Club at the Center
- Collaborating with the Evanston Public Library for a special teen reading program

Community Service:
- Teams are involved in community service projects in the 5th Ward & other locations in Evanston
- Designed to help youth give back to the community:
  - Work at Family Focus, CEDA, Community Garden; Family Focus Closet, Food Pantry and food drives
  - Teens are planning a holiday event to present at the Senior Citizen buildings
  - Committee of Future Focus youth working to reorganize the game room in the Center on the lower level; it will be open daily between 4 and 7p.m.

The Family Focus Center has strong collaborating relationships with other organizations serving Evanston youth such as YOU and Fleetwood Jourdain. The Center has a gym, theater and meeting rooms that host many youth activities.
Dr. Williams thanked the Committee.

Chair Rainey thanked them for their work.

9. **Family Focus/Weissbourd-Holmes Center Repairs**
Dr. Williams and Ms. Vararro explained that they are requesting funds to continue to make the building healthy and safe. They have identified three high priority projects that will increase the safety and security of the center, recommended by walk-throughs conducted by safety consultants:

- Install a new exterior fire door to the gym and theater entrance: $5,000
- Re-tile 1st floor hall; several existing tiles are missing and warped and may cause a safety hazard; recommended by acceptable risk and risk safety consultants: $22,150
- Install a wireless emergency intercom system in 24 rooms and 6 common areas, enable building-wide emergency notification, initiated from the main control unit with individual room panic buttons; recommended at an informal walkthrough by William Logan, former Chief of Police of Evanston: approximately $27,000

Dr. Williams said that Mr. Logan spent a great deal of time with the staff and the Board in evaluating the safety of their building and devised an excellent plan.

Ms. Vararro explained that maintenance of a center of this size is costly. They provide from $60,000-$80,000/yr for general maintenance. These projects in particular came to their attention for the safety of the staff, tenants, participants and children. By having Acceptable Risk evaluate as part of their commercial liability program and worker’s comp, and having the Chief of Police evaluate, they are trying to maintain a better and safer community. The intercom system is truly important for the tenants and children who are at different ends of the building, especially more recently, with the danger of people coming into a center and creating havoc when you need to be able to get the children protected first and foremost. Ms. Vararro said that Family Focus would not be able to afford these projects within their regular maintenance budget.

Dr. Williams added that they have 9 tenants all of whom are aware of their plans.

At Chair Rainey’s inquiry, Ms. Vararro said there is no intercom system. She said they are installing cameras this year along the hallways but the intercom is a real necessity. The atmosphere just says “protect.” Dr. Williams added that the cameras will be at each door so people who enter the building can be followed.

Ald. Holmes thanked them for the cameras. At Ald. Braithwaite’s inquiry, Dr. Williams said staff is monitoring the cameras in their camera terminal. They are hiring staff to monitor the cameras daily. Ms. Vararro added they will be monitored partly by janitorial staff and partly by administrative staff and perhaps even some volunteer staff; she said monitoring the hallways is not difficult. They have the ability to record back 2 weeks.

Chair Rainey thanked them for their hard work.

10. **PEER Services/Windows for Recovery-Energy Efficiency**
    906 Davis, Evanston          847-492-1778         Kate Mahoney Direct: 847-702-4126
Kate Mahoney, Clinical Social Worker and Executive Director, explained that PEER Services is a not-for-profit agency in Evanston that focuses on substance prevention and early intervention and treatment, in existence since 1975.

Ms. Mahoney said they are requesting funding for Phase 2 of the window replacements. They are grateful for last year’s award of $5,000 for the first part of the project. She said she has been in communication with Ms. Flax regarding the fact that she has had to delay some of the window replacement because of the Davis Street construction, which started about two weeks after they were notified of their CDBG funding. Many of the bricks had been torn up and they had some vandalism: one of the bricks had been thrown through the window above their door. She has spoken to Ms. Flax about the possibility, if the committee would consider it, of rolling the 2013 and if additional fund funding is awarded, into one project after the Davis Street construction is completed. There may be some settling of their building, as there is also CTA construction which may cause this. They are trying to be more energy efficient and turn the dollars back into program dollars. The second phase will cost $20,145 of which they will be requesting $14,000 of CDBG funding and their Board is committed to raising the other $6,145 for the project. It will be less disruptive to their clients, many of whom come in Medi-cars, if they can roll it into one project. She thanked the Committee for their consideration.

Chair Rainey said the Committee is really thankful for their work and for their patience and understanding and acknowledging that going forward Davis Street is going to be beautiful and will help their clients. She suggested Ms. Mahoney call Ald. Wilson if there are any problems, in the meantime. Ms. Mahoney said the workers have been fabulous. Her clients need her services and are willing to struggle through and they are grateful.

Chair Rainey said in the long run it is probably better to combine their project, so maybe there is a silver lining.

11. CJE Senior Life/Parking Lot Improvements

Magdalyn Guzzo explained that CJE is located in Rogers Park at Touhy and Kedzie however they have a facility at 1015 Howard Street in Evanston that provides adult day services to seniors and their caregivers and family members, transportation, counseling for Alzheimer’s and dementia care and benefits assistance, which is especially important since the laws are changing regarding benefits. They have a team of benefit researchers who administer that service. The Adult Day Services program is offered specifically in Evanston, which provides a variety of activities during the day so the caregiver can retain his or her job. The participants, who usually have Alzheimer’s, dementia or physical limitations are able to participate in gardening, cooking and arts and to attend cultural events. Transportation services are also provided in Evanston for trips to doctors’ appointments, market or organized outings. The services keep people less isolated. They form relationships with their bus drivers or providers of the services. CJE serves 23 Evanston residents using the adult day services; 45% are of low to middle income from all over Evanston. Of the 46 Evanston residents using the transportation services, 74% report that they are low to middle income.
Ms. Guzzo noted that census data shows that between 2000 and 2010, the number of seniors has increased by about 1.5 percentage points so CJE wants to increase its outreach to Evanston seniors. They have also seen that seniors enter their programs when they are already in crisis, so they would like to do outreach to get people to come to them sooner. There are many seniors who have lost financial security since the economic downturn and they are trying to help them address their problems before they get into a crisis. Ms. Guzzo asked the Committee to let her know if there are other media outlets where they could advertise and Evanston organizations they can connect with. They currently have relationships with the Skokie Valley and Evanston Care Coordination Units and Evanston and St. Francis Hospitals and they would like to increase their outreach. She said the census also showed that 55.7% of Evanston seniors over 75 and 47.8% over 65 live alone. Ms. Guzzo said that 10% live at or below the poverty threshold and 5.7% live just above the poverty level, so they feel that their services are integral in that respect.

Ms. Guzzo explained that CJE is asking for funding for a new parking lot, which has taken a beating from the winter weather. They have 17 Shalom buses that are housed at the Adult Day Center in Evanston and the parking lot would be safer for the drivers and the buses if it was in good repair. 85% of their seniors have physical limitations so it is even harder for them to tread safely with the cracks in the parking lot pavement. CJE had put a bid out to pay for the parking lot resurfacing for approximately $5,000 but they would like to use CDBG funds to upgrade the parking lot surface and the curb cuts to make sure that it would last longer than just a pave over.

Chair Rainey said it is interesting that whenever there is a complaint about the City preparing to restore an asphalt parking lot, they are told if they wait too long, it will need complete reconstruction, and that is the situation here. Ms. Guzzo agreed and noted that with so much modern technology, they are not able to make a parking lot or road that does not crack. Chair Rainey asked whether there is drainage in the parking lot and advised Ms. Guzzo that it will be a requirement in order for them to get a permit. She said they have done a variety of construction projects and she is sure they comply with any requirements.

Chair Rainey said she knows people that are participants in the Adult Day Care Program and that the caregivers desperately need the program. Ms. Guzzo confirmed that people have said they would have to quit their jobs if the program did not exist and a great deal of adult day services charge $200 for adult day services but they charge $80. Ald. Holmes asked whether any of the participants from the adult day care center in Skokie went to the Evanston one when they closed, to which Ms. Guzzo said that they do have a couple of clients from there, but they feel more will come with their outreach. She said they have another adult day care center in Deerfield. Chair Rainey said Rick Stolerman was the attorney for CJE before he passed away, which kept her in very close touch with them because he was very active in the Evanston community, but after he passed away, she lost touch. She asked Ms. Guzzo to keep in touch. At Chair Rainey’s inquiry, Ms. Guzzo said they had just gotten band aid bids and they will be getting more bids for the full job. At Chair Rainey’s request for them to hire Evanston contractors to do the job, Ms. Guzzo said she would make a point of it.
Chair Rainey thanked her.

**Staff and Citizen Comment**
Ms. Flax reminded the Committee that the 3rd application review meeting is Wednesday, September 18th at 7:00 p.m. and it will be City applications.

The Committee voted unanimously to change the date of the September 26th meeting to September 24th at 7:30 p.m. (instead of 7:00).

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbie Newman