



APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

7:00 P.M.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, City Council Chambers

Members Present: Ald. Rainey, Ald. Holmes, Ald. Miller, Ald. Wilson, C. Goddard, S. Jones, G. Mackey, M. Miro, J. Sanke

Members Absent: Ald. Braithwaite

Presiding Member: Ald. Rainey, Committee Chair

Staff: S. Flax, N. Holden-Corbett

Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum

Chair Rainey declared a quorum of the Housing and Community Development Act Committee and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2017 CDBG Funding—Committee Discussion and Recommendations

Chair Rainey explained that the Housing & Community Development Act Committee would discuss and make funding recommendations for the 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Chair Rainey explained that she calculated the average award for each request and used that average as the initial award suggestion. There was further discussion by the Committee about rounding allocations to the nearest dollar. The amounts were verified by staff and Chair Rainey stated each allocation under Public Services funding as follows: LAF, Evanston Legal Services in the amount of \$6,964, The James B. Moran Center Legal & Social Services in the amount of \$21,785, North Shore Senior Center, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in the amount of \$10,500, Meals At Home, Home-Delivered Meals in the amount of \$14,643, Interfaith Action, Emergency Overnight Shelter Expansion in the amount of \$12,429, YWCA Evanston-Northshore, Domestic Violence Services in the amount of \$24,701, Connections for the Homeless, Supportive Housing in the amount of \$15,071, Children's Home & Aid, Rice Center Services in the amount of \$6,929, Open Communities, Home Sharing Program in the amount of \$7,429, Evanston Scholars, College Readiness in the amount of \$5,179, City of Evanston, Target Area Graffiti Removal in the amount of \$20,357, City of Evanston, Summer Youth Employment Program in the amount of \$16,714, City of Evanston, Certificate of Rehab. & Record Sealing in the amount of \$18,285, Family Focus/ The Future Focus-Youth Program in the amount of \$15,000, Open Studio Project, Art & Action in the amount of \$3,928, Youth Job Center, Youth Employment Programs in the amount of \$21,797, Housing Options for the Mentally Ill, Housing Options Supported Employment Program in the amount of \$15,286.

Ald. Miller moved approval and was seconded by C. Goddard. Ald. Holmes stated that grants under \$10,000 were difficult for agencies because the significant amount of administration required for compliance. There was discussion and the Committee agreed to review allocation minimums in future. J. Sanke stated concerns that Open Studio Project was not compliant with reporting requirements. Ald. Rainey noted that the agency would be put on notice to reconcile reporting issues. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Rainey discussed her reasons for reducing the allocation suggestion for Housing Rehab Administration citing the upcoming sale of a City owned property; proceeds from the sale would increase the revolving loan fund to make up the reduction in entitlement funding. Ald. Holmes moved to fund City/Housing Rehab Administration in the amount of \$85,000 and Housing Rehab Loan Fund in the amount of \$57,937, seconded by S. Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

J. Sanke moved to fund CDBG/Target Area Code Enforcement at \$300,000, seconded by S. Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

M. Miro recused himself from voting on Public Facilities allocations since he is a former staff member of Ridgeville Park District. Ald. Wilson proposed allocation amounts based on averages. Ald. Miller asked about remaining funds from other categories. The Committee discussed façade improvement approval for CJE from Economic Development Fund. Ald. Miller moved to remove CJE from CDBG funding since the project would be funded from another source.

Ald. Wilson moved allocation to Economic Development Loans in the amount of \$11,846. Ald. Holmes suggested increasing Alley Paving. L. Biggs, Engineering and Capital Planning Bureau Chief, provided information on alley projects for which funding was requested and noted that CDBG must fund entire projects. Ald. Miller amended the allocation suggestion to \$150,000. L. Biggs confirmed that the alley north of Brummel St and east of Elmwood Ave could be paved with that amount and unexpended Alley Paving funds from prior years. G. Makey seconded motion. There was further discussion about the amount of work/number of alleys in need of attention. J. Sanke pointed out that the \$220,000 for street resurfacing fully funded one project, but only partially funded another. She suggested raising the allocation to \$290,000 to fully fund both or lowering it to \$210,000 and only funding one per staff recommendation. Ald. Wilson amended allocations; \$150,000 for the Alley Paving Project and \$210,000 for the Street Resurfacing Project, seconded by Ald. Miller.

Ald. Wilson proposed allocations for remaining Public Improvement projects. Ald. Miller suggested that remaining funds be divided in four and allocated to the four organizations requesting funds. J. Sanke moved to reduce YOU allocation to zero and reallocate funds to other projects; motion seconded by G. Makey. There was further discussion to finalize allocation amounts. Chair Rainey confirmed the final following allocations: Children's Home & Aid, Security Improvements in the amount of \$59,243, Infant Welfare Society, Baby Toddler Nursery in the amount of \$75,242, Reba Early Learning Center in the amount of \$56,243, and Ridgeville Park District, Brummel Park

Play Circuit in the amount of \$76,242. Allocation suggestions were moved by Ald. Holmes and seconded by Ald. Miller. Motion passed unanimously with M. Miro recusing himself.

Staff/Citizen Comment

Ald. Wilson restated the difficulty of making funding decisions; he complimented all of the agencies that participated. S. Flax emphasized that allocations were made based on conservative estimates and reviewed next steps. The City's draft 2017 Action Plan would be posted October 14 for public comment. The 30-day comment period would end following any comment provided at the HCDA meeting on November 15. Ald. Rainey thanked staff. Ald. Holmes again suggested rethinking small award amounts and also fully funding capital projects so that they could be completed with one award. She also suggested that the committee should consider increasing the grants under \$10,000 if the City's CDBG grant is larger than estimate. Ald. Rainey pointed out the cap for public services and suggested that people lobby for an increase because of the high need.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Rainey called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Ald. Wilson and seconded by Ald. Wilson. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Holden-Corbett
Grants and Compliance Specialist