



APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 27, 2017

7:00 P.M.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 2402

Members present: Ald. Rainey, Ald. Braithwaite, Ald. Wilson, Ald. Wynne, Ald. Rue Simmons, Glen Mackey, Shawn Jones, Jeannie Sanke

Members Absent: Carol Goddard

Presiding Member: Ald. Rainey, Committee Chair

Staff: S. Flax

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 7:08 pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2017

Ald. Braithwaite moved approval of the minutes as presented, Glenn Mackey seconded the motion. Following discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Allocation of Additional FY2017 CDBG Funds

Alderman Rainey explained the staff recommendation that allocated 20% of the actual CDBG 2017 grant amount for CDBG Administration, as allowed. In addition, all estimated grant amounts were increased to round numbers to simplify grant management. The recommendation allocated additional Public Services funding to the Graffiti Removal, Summer Youth Employment and Certificate of Rehab programs, which were prioritized by the committee for increases if additional funds were received. Remaining funds were allocated for Housing Rehab Administration, which had been funded at a reduced level with the plan to use funds from the revolving loan fund for administrative costs, if needed, in order to fund other projects.

Jeannie Sanke moved to approve the allocations as presented; Ald. Wilson seconded the motion. Ald. Simmons asked for more information about the funding for which additional funding was recommended. She noted the recent Family Focus layoffs due to state funding cuts - 126 families will be affected by layoffs. Services that will stop are DCFS and early childhood program. Two employees have been laid off in Evanston. Ald. Wilson explained that CDBG has to be allocated to programs that applied for funding in the application process in 2016, and that funding can't be allocated for general operating expenses. Ald. Braithwaite questioned the amount of increasing funding for graffiti, which would raise its allocation to 92% of request. Ald. Wilson pointed out that the allocation raised funding for the program to 2016 levels and helps maintain City services that could otherwise risk being cut. He also pointed out that nonprofits have the ability to fund raise for programming. Additional discussion followed.

Jeannie Sanke noted that the Certificate of Rehab program should be more broadly publicized and suggested that Kevin Brown could get information out via the City's public cable channel.

Following a staff explanation of each of the recommended funding changes and also the impact of the increase in 2017 actual funding and revolving loan increase from the September estimate, the committee voted unanimously to approve the allocation of additional 2017 CDBG funding as recommended.

Staff explained that the revised allocations would be included in the updated 2017 Action Plan and would go to City Council on July 10 for approval prior to submission to HUD. The attached spreadsheet shows the draft allocations made on September 27, 2016, as well as the revised allocations based on actual grant amount.

Public Comment

There was no comment.

Staff reports

Chicago-Cook County Assessment of Fair Housing

Staff explained that the Chicago-Cook County Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) is for information only at this time. Benefits to the City include reduced cost, estimated at \$13,000 versus \$25,000 or more to do a standalone AFH, and a more effective analysis because housing is a regional issue. If the regional AFH is approved by HUD and continued funding for CDBG and other entitlement grants is confirmed, a specific proposal for Evanston to join the county wide assessment would be proposed.

2018 CDBG Application Process

Staff noted that information on the application for 2018 CDBG and Mental Health Board funding was on the City website and had been emailed to current grantees as well as the CDBG Interested Parties list of non-profits and individuals who have expressed interest in the funding process. Applications would open on July 10; mandatory pre-application meetings were scheduled for the weeks of July 10 and July 17.

Other Business

It was agreed that the July 18 and August 15 meetings would be canceled, as there are no items requiring action by the committee for either meeting. An orientation meeting would be scheduled at 9 AM on August 15 in the Aldermanic Library for the new committee members and any members wishing to attend. Staff will send out the schedule of meeting dates for the 2018 CDBG application process to all members.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, Shawn Jones moved to adjourn, Ald. Wilson seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously; the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah K. Flax
Housing and Grants Administrator