



APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

7:00 P.M.

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

Members present: Ald. Rainey, Ald. Wynne, Carol Goddard, Glen Mackey, Michael Miro, Jeannie Sanke

Members Absent: Ald. Braithwaite, Ald. Rue Simmons, Ald. Wilson, Shawn Jones

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 October 17, 2017

The minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Public Input on the Draft 2018 Action Plan

Sue Loellbach, representing Connections for the Homeless and Joining Forces, said she reviewed the plan in some detail and was very comfortable with it. She also recognized the work that City Council, HCDA Committee and HHHRC have undertaken to address affordable housing needs in the community. She suggested noted that having an up to date Comprehensive Plan increases the likelihood that affordable housing will be developed and said that her organizations would be advocating for that action. She also acknowledged this would be an expensive but important undertaking.

Ray Friedman commented he attended the meeting to discuss affordable housing needs and how fees in lieu of on-site units would be used and how compliance with the City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (IHO) was being maintained. He noted that he liked Ald. Rainey's proposed rental subsidy program and will continue to be involved in efforts to address affordable housing needs. Chair Rainey noted that issues relating to the IHO were not in the purview of this committee; City Council has established a subcommittee to review and recommend updates to the IHO and additional information would be forthcoming on that subcommittee's work.

Doreen Price spoke about the needs of seniors such as herself who want to age in place but are ineligible for help through existing programs due to having reverse mortgages. She recognized Audrey Thompson for assisting her in evaluating her options. Chair Rainey suggested that Ms. Price contact Rep. Schakowsky's office for assistance relating to her mortgage and banking issues.

Discussion and Vote to Recommend Approval of the draft 2018 Action Plan to City Council Following Receipt of 2018 Entitlement Grant Amounts

Staff noted that no public comment on the draft 2018 Action Plan had been submitted in writing, however, updates were made to the description of homeless services provided by Connections for the Homeless in section AP-65 of the plan, including that homeless persons could be housed for up to a year at Hilda's Place. In addition, section AP-75 that described the plan to participate in a regional Assessment of Fair Housing with Cook County, the City of Chicago, and other entities required to conduct an AFH was changed to reflect the cancellation of those plans. Committee members discussed possible next steps in light of this change and it was agreed this would be a topic of discussion at a meeting in Q1 2018. Staff will contact the City of Chicago, which has the same fiscal year, to determine if there is any potential for a smaller scale collaborative AFH.

Chair Rainey asked committee members if there were additional topics for discussion. Hearing none, she called for a vote to recommend the draft 2018 Action Plan to City Council following receipt of the 2018 entitlement grant amounts; it was approved unanimously.

Discussion of the 2018 Community Development Block Grant Allocation Process

Mr. Miro noted that since four committee members were not in attendance, additional discussion should be considered for a future meeting. Members noted that there was little discussion among committee members at the 2018 funding meeting relative to prior years. Ald. Wynne noted that data on the impact of CDBG funding on program outcomes would also be valuable to decision making. The impact of new federal regulations to require assessments of agencies' capacity to carry out programs was also discussed. Ideas to facilitate more discussion of what should be funded included having the average funding for each applicant based on committee members' draft allocations. It was agreed that this would require that all members submit their draft allocations earlier and that schedule changes would be needed to allow for this. Staff will develop a draft schedule for the 2019 CDBG application process and funding decisions based on this need for discussion at the January 2018 meeting.

Discussion of Public Outreach and Engagement Process for the City's Consolidated Plan, Action Plans and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports

Chair Rainey noted that this discussion was taking place based on an email from a resident requesting a change to the citizen participation process. She requested that any such communications be forwarded to the committee in future. Following discussion of the multiple channels used to engage residents and stakeholders, including paid advertising as required by HUD, it was agreed that information about public comment periods would be publicized through ward newsletters and meetings in addition to the communications vehicles already in use. This would also be done for the CDBG application review meetings to broaden awareness of the funding process.

Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

Staff Reports

It was agreed that the December 19, 2017 meeting would be canceled due to lack of agenda items. The 2018 HCDA meeting schedule will be emailed to committee members.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah K. Flax
Housing and Grants Administrator