

APPROVED ON 01-11-07

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**DECEMBER 5, 2006**

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL**

**6:00 P.M.**

Present: Chairperson Nancy Emerson, Jean Pecunies, Bob Layton, Lynne Langley, Algene Bailey

Absent: Vice Chairperson Dani Rooney (called), Stephen Lichtenstein (called), William Thorpe

Staff: David Moore, CD Program Manager

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Chairperson Emerson opened the meeting and asked for a motion for the minutes from the October 17, 2006 meeting. Mr. Layton moved to accept the minutes as presented and Ms. Pecunies seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Chairperson Emerson then opened the public hearing. She explained that the public hearing was the first of two hearings to solicit input from the public regarding new eligible projects for the FY 2007-2008 budget year. She noted the absence of members of the public and recognized Mr. Moore who noted that this public hearing did not benefit from press exposure, which CAC public hearings usually receive. He said staff plans two public hearings during the budget development process in order to give ample opportunity for public input. Mr. Moore also indicated that staff has not yet been given an estimate by HUD for the amount of CDBG funds to be received in FY 2008.

Chairperson Emerson kept the public hearing open and recognized Mr. Moore to give updates and to follow-up on items discussed at the previous meeting.

Mr. Moore briefly gave an overview of the CAC budget development schedule for FY 2007-2008, which the CAC had received in the mail. He also briefly described the press releases and the portion of the Atlantic Heights National Historic Register Application, which staff provided to the Committee. He also informed the Committee that he has spoken with Chris Sterndale, Executive Director of the homeless shelter known as Cross Roads House, regarding the CAC's interest in visiting the shelter. Mr. Moore noted that Cross Roads House is planning for a major renovation of its facility on Lafayette Road and that the organization is likely going to apply for State CDBG funds for this purpose. Mr. Moore indicated that Cross Roads House may request local CDBG dollars for the project. After some discussion with the Committee it was determined that Mr. Moore would work with Mr. Sterndale to establish a time, perhaps just prior to the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, where the CAC could visit the premises and hear from Mr. Sterndale regarding the Cross Roads House renovation plan. Mr. Bailey said he would be out of town on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Moore said he would work with Mr. Bailey to make sure he had an opportunity to visit Cross Roads House.

Mr. Moore then provided a brief update on the Atlantic Heights Traffic Circulation Study and Raleigh Way Streetscape Design Project. He noted that the City held its first neighborhood meeting on the project on November 14<sup>th</sup>. He reminded the committee that the CAC had included this project as part of its FY 2006-2007 budget and that the City had retained CLD Consulting Engineers of York, ME to carry out the design work. He noted that Chairperson Emerson and Mr. Thorpe attended the neighborhood meeting. Chairperson Emerson shared her observations about

the neighborhood meeting. She said the meeting was very good and included a wide-ranging respectful dialogue between the attendees. She said the mood of this meeting contrasted sharply with neighborhood meetings from earlier streetscape projects and said this was a result of the investment of CDBG dollars in the neighborhood. She indicated that the CDBG funds have made a difference in the neighborhood as evidenced in the many examples of civic cooperation that have resulted including the Garden Club Tour in the summers and the recent work to become listed on the National Register of Historic Places. CAC members agreed with the observation about the changes CDBG funds have helped usher in, in the neighborhood.

Mr. Moore said that he is nearing the end of work with a graphic designer and fabricator to place a new sign in Hanscom Park to recognize the neighborhood's listing on the Historic Register.

Mr. Moore then showed a slide show of the Maple Haven Park, which was newly constructed out in the Maple Haven neighborhood. Photographs of the park before, during, and after construction were shown. The park was not a CDBG-funded project, but involved CD staff. The Committee noted how the project was both a park and a playground and how that promoted use by residents of all ages.

Finally, Mr. Moore noted that he had heard from Mr. Lichtenstein who said that Tuesdays would not be good meeting nights for him given his class schedule. Mr. Moore asked the CAC if another night might be appropriate. After a brief discussion, it was determined that Thursday evenings would be a good alternative to meeting on Tuesday nights. Mr. Moore said he would contact Mr. Lichtenstein, Mr. Thorpe and Ms. Rooney to determine if Thursday night meetings would work.

Chairperson Emerson then entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bailey moved to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Ms. Langley. All voted in favor and Chairperson Emerson adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.