

APPROVED ON 2-7-08

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING**

JANUARY 24, 2008

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

Present: Chairperson Nancy Emerson, Vice Chairperson Dani Rooney, Bob Layton, William Thorpe, Lynne Langley, Algene Bailey, Constance Carmody

Absent: Jean Pecunies (called)

Staff: Cindy Hayden, Deputy City Manager; David Moore, Assistant Community Development Director

Chairperson Emerson opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. and recognized Mr. Moore to summarize the proposed budget amendment. Mr. Moore explained that the budget amendment was for the FY 2007-2008 budget and requested that \$40,000 be transferred from the Housing Rehabilitation line item to the Residential Accessibility Program (RAP). The purpose of this amendment was to meet the demand for RAP. Mr. Moore indicated that demand for both programs is steady, however recent RAP grants have trended towards the higher end of the \$20,000 maximum per project cost. Chairperson Emerson opened the public hearing to the public, however no members of the public were present. Chairperson Emerson asked what amount of funding was budgeted for the FY 2007-2008 for these programs. Ms. Hayden indicated that \$113,000 was budgeted for Rehab and \$50,000 was budgeted for RAP. Seeing no other questions, Chairperson Emerson closed the public hearing. Ms. Langley moved to approve the budget amendment for FY 2007-2008 as presented and Mr. Bailey seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

The next item of business was the meeting minutes for January 10, 2008. Mr. Layton voted to approve the minutes, and Ms. Langley seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Chairperson Emerson moved to the next item which was a discussion of the FY 2008-2009 Annual Plan and Budget. Mr. Moore reminded the committee that this was the first meeting on the budget since the two public hearings held to solicit public input on the budget. Mr. Moore provided a handout which contained preliminary budget numbers for the upcoming year. The handout indicated that new entitlement funding of \$646,846 would be available from U.S. Housing and Urban Development for allocation in the new budget year. He pointed out that if current multi-year programs are funded at their typical levels, a total of approximately \$207,000 would be available for additional projects. Mr. Moore reminded the committee that a \$300,000 loan repayment is pending from the Portsmouth Housing Authority and could be allocated for CDBG programming after the start of the fiscal year. Ms. Hayden explained that this loan is a repayment for assistance the CDBG program provided the Housing Authority in 1989, which allowed the PHA to purchase Wamesit Place from private developers and retain the affordability of the 100 family units. Ms. Hayden explained that since the funds are not guaranteed to be received prior to the start of the fiscal year the funds could not be budgeted. However, when the funds are available the staff would alert the CAC for guidance on how those funds should be allocated.

Mr. Moore provided a second handout which discussed the ongoing CDBG programs and proposed new projects in more detail. The ongoing programs included the Residential Accessibility, Residential Rehabilitation, Affordable Housing Challenge Grant, Public Service Agency Grant and Non-Profit Loan Programs as well as the General Administration line item. The proposed new projects for FY 2008-2009 included the request from the Portsmouth Housing Authority (PHA) for \$150,000 to support the creation of 10 units of affordable housing for the elderly (62 years of age and older) at the vacant Lafayette School. In addition, he reminded the committee that the Atlantic Heights Neighborhood Association came forward to request funding for the construction of the newly designed streetscape improvement projects; a project whose construction costs will total \$1.2 million.

The committee discussed the ongoing and new projects proposed for FY 2008-2009. Staff reminded the committee that the committee identified \$263,000 in funding for the Raleigh Way Streetscape Improvements in FY 2007-2008 budget and that due to the project size and cost the project construction would proceed in phases; the first phase of the improvements which are going to be bid out in the next several weeks and hopefully constructed during summer 2008. The committee clarified that additional funds would be needed to construct phases 2 and 3. Mr. Moore indicated that the committee could identify some funding this year and some funding next year in order to have enough available to construct additional phases in the future.

Mr. Moore advised the committee that the FY 2008-2009 Public Service Agency Grant round had been advertised and that at the February 7th meeting staff would share some of the materials used to administer the Public Service Agency Grant program including the program grant application, quarterly invoices, and monitoring forms.

No members of the public were present and Chairperson Emerson closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.