

ACCEPTED JANUARY 7, 2010

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING**

DECEMBER 10, 2009

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

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

Absent: Jean Pecunies (called)

Staff: David Moore, Assistant Community Development Director

Chairperson Emerson opened the meeting and moved to the first item on the agenda, which was consideration of the minutes from May 14, 2009. Mr. Layton moved that the minutes be accepted as presented and Mr. Bailey seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Chairperson Emerson then opened the public hearing and recognized Mr. Moore, who provided a presentation on the FY 2010-2011 Annual Action Plan and Budget process and the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. In addition, he described the Community Development Block Grant program generally and the eligible uses of CDBG funds. He explained the public hearing was the first of two opportunities for the public to make suggestions regarding the planned use of CDBG funds for the period between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. The second public hearing is planned for January 2010. Another public hearing on the draft Five-Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and Budget will be held in April. He also provided copies of the Citizen Participation Plan and indicated the public was also welcome to comment on this document as part of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan process.

Chairperson Emerson then opened the public hearing to the public.

Phil Cohen, Co-Chair of the Atlantic Heights Area Neighborhood Association was recognized and thanked the Committee for its past support of CDBG-funded projects in the Atlantic Heights Neighborhood. He indicated that CDBG funds invested in the neighborhood previously had resulted in many improvements. He suggested the Committee include funding in the upcoming Annual Action plan to complete streetscape improvements for the two streets in the neighborhood, which have not yet been improved (Concord and Porpoise Ways). He also indicated that smaller families have moved into the neighborhood and there was a demand for swings to be located somewhere in the neighborhood.

Diane Giese, Executive Director of the Seacoast Family Food Pantry indicated she would be applying for the Public Service Agency Grant Program on behalf of the agency. She said the agency has served 104% more clients than it served last year. New initiatives include increased access to fresh vegetables and nutritional cooking projects. She

indicated that meeting the challenge of the national obesity academic should be a component of the 5-year consolidated plan.

Brianna Marshall of Big Brothers Big Sisters was then recognized. She indicated that she was new to the agency but grateful to learn about the CDBG program. She said the agency is focused on increasing the quality and quantity of the youth mentoring services it currently provides.

After the public comments, the CAC had a general discussion regarding upcoming 5-year Consolidated Plan and the upcoming U.S. Census, which may impact the current roster of census block groups within which CDBG funds can be spent on public facilities projects.

Chairperson Emerson then moved on to the next item, which was the public hearing on the status of currently-funded CDBG projects. Mr. Moore reviewed recently funded projects, including the newly completed redevelopment of the Former Lafayette School building into 10 units of affordable housing for seniors, the Cross Roads House Redevelopment Project, and the Raleigh Way Streetscape Improvements (Phases II and III). He also provided an update on the Betty's Dream and Cross Roads House Emergency Power Source projects, which are underway. He indicated that the Housing Rehabilitation Program and Residential Accessibility Grant Program continue to have steady demand. No members of the public sought to be recognized during this public hearing.

Ms. Carmody made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Thorpe seconded the motion. All voted in favor and Chairperson Emerson adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.