

ACCEPTED FEBRUARY 11, 2010

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

JANUARY 21, 2010

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL

5:45 P.M.

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

Absent: None

Staff: David Moore, Assistant Community Development Director

Chairperson Emerson opened the meeting and recognized David Moore, Assistant Community Development Director to present potential projects and public input to date regarding the upcoming annual plan and budget for FY 2010-2011. Mr. Moore reviewed a handout which listed potential new projects based on public input received to date, ongoing CDBG programs, and projects in implementation stage.

Mr. Moore indicated the potential new projects list was preliminary since it was still early in the budget process and additional ideas may come forward. Additional communications regarding the CAC budget will be forwarded to the Committee. He added that more information about the budget will be presented at the meeting scheduled for February 11.

The CAC discussed the list of potential new projects from the public, which included construction funding for the remaining streets in the Atlantic Heights Neighborhood and swings for Hislop Park. In addition, Mr. Moore indicated that several public service agencies had come forward to express support for the Public Service Agency Grant program.

A general discussion took place regarding the upcoming annual plan and budget. There was general support for moving forward with construction of streetscape improvements in order to continue the ongoing series of improvements in the Atlantic Heights. Mr. Moore indicated that the engineering and design work still needed to be completed but that he hoped to issue a request for proposals for that work in the coming weeks. Mr. Moore indicated that space concerns and public safety of locating swings at Hislop Park had prevented funding this project in the past.

Mr. Moore reviewed other ongoing projects which he indicated would be recommended for funding in the new year including the Public Service Agency Grant Program, Housing Rehabilitation and Residential Accessibility Programs, Housing Rehabilitation Administration, Portsmouth Non-Profit Loan Program. He indicated that activity in the Housing Rehabilitation Program and Residential Accessibility program had slowed of

late and he indicated the activity level of both of these programs are difficult to anticipate and vary over time.

Mr. Moore also provided updates on the Betty's Dream and Cross Roads House Emergency Power source projects. He indicated that Betty's Dream is moving forward with their generator project and he would be working with the agency to expend those grant funds in the next several months. In addition, over the course of preparing the subrecipient agreement for the Cross Roads House project, it was determined jointly between Cross Roads House and CD staff that using the funding for soft-costs, such as interest on the Cross Roads construction loan, would be a more effective use of the CDBG funds and more greatly assist the agency. Using the funding for a generator would have triggered prevailing wage rate requirements, which would have impacted the entire \$4.3 million project by requiring increased labor costs and reporting requirements. Mr. Moore indicated that agency had requested this change, which he thought was appropriate and in keeping with the original intent of the granting of funds. There was some general discussion about the project and the how the funding would assist the redevelopment project, which included an emergency generator. After the discussion, there was consensus on the CAC to support this revised use of the funds.

Mr. Moore also advised that the CD staff had received a request from the Department of Public Works for approximately \$8,500 to \$10,000 in assistance for an accessibility project at Portsmouth City Hall. He said an amendment to the FY 2009-2010 would be needed and a public hearing for the amendment could take place at the February 11, 2010 CAC meeting. Mr. Moore indicated that replacement of the current hinged door in the City Hall lobby with automatic sliding doors would increase the accessibility of the entrance way for persons with physical-disabilities and greatly improve the temperature control of the first floor of City Hall and thereby decrease energy usage to maintain an adequate temperature on the first floor. There was consensus on the committee to move forward with a budget amendment at the meeting at the February 11th meeting.

The CAC then discussed the census block group and tract orientation for the upcoming 2010 census. The committee discussed the impact of concentrations of households earning low and moderate incomes in block groups – such as subsidized housing developments -- on the percentage of households earning low or moderate incomes. The CAC generally discussed the 51% threshold of residents who earn low or moderate incomes and the funding of public facilities improvements.

There was a question about the community facility at Gosling Meadows operated by the Housing Authority and how it functions and what activities take place there for the youth in the public housing development. Mr. Moore indicated that he would look into the status of that facility and report back.

Chairperson Emerson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.