

APPROVED ON JANUARY 12, 2012

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING**

MAY 5, 2011

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL
Conference Room B**

6:30 P.M.

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

Staff: David Moore, Community Development Director

Chairperson Emerson opened the public hearing and recognized Community Development Director David Moore to review the purpose of the public hearing. Mr. Moore reviewed the CDBG program's FY 2011-2012 budget process and draft budget document. He advised the Committee that since its last meeting HUD had provided the City with its entitlement figure for FY 2011-2012, which is \$594,450¹, which represents a decrease from last year's entitlement grant of approximately 17%. He thanked the Committee for its patience in waiting for direction from HUD regarding the entitlement grant amount for the fiscal year.

Mr. Moore indicated that he had adjusted the new draft budget to account for the decrease in funding. He advised the Committee that amount of funding available for the Public Service Agency Grant program would be \$102,000 and recommended that the Committee adopt its recommendations to the City Manager for the awards under that program.

After Mr. Moore's introduction Chairperson recognized members of the public to provide their input on the Draft FY 2011-2012 Annual Plan and Budget. Kristie Conrad, Director of Adult Education at Rockingham Community Action rose to speak on behalf of the agency's Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language Programs. She wished to advise the Committee of the work being done with these residents most of whom earn low and moderate incomes. Ms. Conrad did not make a request of the Committee and was supportive of the Committee's efforts to support those who earn low or moderate incomes in Portsmouth.

Chairperson Emerson then recognized Stephanie Krenn, Co-Chair of the Atlantic Heights Area Neighborhood Association, submitted a letter to the Committee and summarized its contents. She thanked the Committee for its support of funding for the continued streetscape improvements in the Neighborhood, including the funding for the Concord & Porpoise Way Streetscape Improvement Project and spoke in support of passage of the FY 2011-2012 Annual Plan and Budget. She indicated that the Neighborhood was very interested in requesting funding support for swings in Hislop Park as well as support for improvements to the playground under the I-95 bridge known as Maynard Park. She thanked the Committee for its past support of improvement projects in the neighborhood.

No other members of the public sought to be recognized and Chairperson kept the public hearing open while discussion ensued.

¹ HUD would later refine this figure to be \$594,463.

The Committee discussed the decrease in funding from last year and its impacts on the CDBG budget. Mr. Moore explained that bids for the Concord & Porpoise Ways project had come in favorably and that this new development would be helpful in diminishing the impact of the cuts to the CDBG program. The Committee then reviewed the roster of the Public Service Agency Grant program awards. The program would support \$102,000 in grant awards this year, which is \$15,000 less than last year. In order to provide grant support to all programs currently receiving funding, the Committee decided to limit grant awards to \$5,000 or \$10,000 grants and to provide grants to only one grant per agency. After the discussion, Ms. Carmody voted to recommend the roster of FY 2011-2012 Public Service Agency Grant awards to the City Manager. Ms. Pecunies seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Discussion then moved to the consideration of the Draft FY 2011-2012 Annual Plan and Budget. Chairperson Emerson and members of the CAC expressed their appreciation to the staff and the public for the work and input that went into the Annual Plan. In addition, they thanked staff for the patience in monitoring developments during federal budget process and planning proactively for the impacts on the CDBG budget. The committee also expressed regret that funds for CDBG programs were decreased and spoke in support of the draft budget. Vice Chairperson Rooney moved to recommend the Draft FY 2011-2012 Annual Plan and Budget to the City Manager; Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Chairperson Emerson adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.