

**--CITIZENS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING AND PUBLIC
HEARING**

FEBRUARY 18, 2016

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL CONFERENCE
ROOM A**

6:00 P.M.

Present: Chair Lynne Langley, Vice-Chair Dani Rooney, Judy Bunnell, Jonathan Sandberg, Hannah Dahlgren, Jamie Baker

Absent: Alison Hamilton

Staff: David Moore, Community Development Director; Elise Annunziata, Community Development Coordinator

Chair Langley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Annunziata was invited to provide a presentation prior to receiving input from the public. She explained that the CDBG program is at the beginning of the Annual Plan and Budget Planning period for FY 2016-FY2017. The planning process will include another opportunity for public comment prior to submitting the City's final CDBG Annual Action Plan and Budget to HUD by mid-May. Ms. Annunziata provided a background presentation on the CDBG program, eligible activities, and recent, on-going initiatives and projects of the CDBG program in Portsmouth. After having concluded the presentation, Acting Chair Langley opened the meeting to the public for comment.

Brinn Chute from Senior Services/Portsmouth Recreation Department spoke in support of Senior Center clients' needs related to any relocation of the Senior Center. She particularly noted accessibility needs and concerns including sidewalks, and connectivity from a bus stop to the sidewalk and front door of a center potentially located at the Doble Army Reserve Center.

Martha Stone, Executive Director of Cross Roads House Inc., was then recognized. She spoke on behalf of Cross Roads House and discussed the agency's progress toward developing a Capital Plan for its facilities at 600 Lafayette Road. She noted that Cross Roads House would likely have facility improvements and repair needs in the future, and inquired whether CDBG funds could be used for facilities improvements and repairs. Ms. Annunziata responded that CDBG funds are eligible to use for facilities improvements if there is a benefit to income-eligible persons. She stated that part of the Annual Action Plan and Budget process is to identify needs in Portsmouth and work with the CAC to recommend a CDBG budget based on a balance between limited funding and the community's priority needs. Ms. Annunziata and Mr. Moore thanked Ms. Stone for discussing Cross Roads House's Capital Plan development and for raising potential future capital needs.

Ms. Chute was recognized by Chair Langley. She stated that early on-set Alzheimer's and dementia was on the rise and expressed concern that these conditions are not clearly categorized in the government definition of "mental illness." Ms. Chute stated that transportation and accessibility challenges will be increasingly prevalent among this population.

After no other members of the public sought recognition, Chair Langley closed the public hearing.

Ms. Annunziata then reviewed CDBG-eligible census tract and block group data and a brief discussion followed regarding HUD CDBG Program requirements to primarily benefit individuals and families earning less than 80% of median family income. Ms. Annunziata then provided additional information about the logistics of the upcoming agency presentations, applications received to date and the FY 2016-17 CDBG budget development process.

Chair Langley adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.