



City of Fort Pierce, Florida
Communitywide Council Advisory Board Meeting
January 13, 2016

MINUTES

Ms. Irene Szedlmayer called the Communitywide Council meeting to order at approximately 6:00pm.

Members Present: Irene Szedlmayer, Ellen Mancini, Al Maige, Edward Cox, Kevin Griffin, Gwendolyn Taylor

Members Absent: None

Staff in Attendance: Libby Woodruff, Grants Administrator

Visitors: Kenny B. Taylor

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Maige made a motion to approve the minutes from the September, 2015 meeting; seconded by Mr. Cox; **motion carried.**

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Kenny Taylor was welcomed by Ms. Szedlmayer.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome New Members

The Communitywide Council welcomed two new members, Ms. Gwendolyn Taylor and Mr. John Griffin and introduced themselves to each other.

Ms. Woodruff passed out Volunteer Applications for Appointment/Reappointment to Mr. Maige, Ms. Szedlmayer, Ms. Mancini and Mr. Cox since their original 2-year terms are coming to an end.

B. Public Meeting – PowerPoint Presentation and Survey for the Creation of the 2016 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Report

Ms. Woodruff provided a PowerPoint presentation and Community Survey for the creation of the 2016 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Report.

C. Review and Discussion of 2015-2016 Public Service Grant Guidance and Application – Open Date – January 5; Close Date – February 8

Ms. Woodruff provided a copy of the 2015-2016 PSA Grant Guidance and Application for the Council's review and comment.

Ms. Woodruff explained that the amount that an individual organization can receive in a PSA grant decreased from \$10,000 each in 2015 to \$7,500 in 2016 and explained that the City will use a portion of the PSA funds to provide summer activities for youth at the Percy Peek Gymnasium this summer.

Ms. Szedlmayer suggested staff provide a copy of the Communitywide Council's By-Laws for the February meeting. Ms. Szedlmayer also stated that the Communitywide Council

will receive the 2016 Public Service grant applications at their February meeting and the Council should be prepared to discuss and score the applications at the March meeting.

Mr. Griffin stated that he would like to add a new agenda item, 'The other part of the block grant that is available to the City and what input the Council will have on those funds.' Chair Szedlmayer requested that this discussion be placed under 'Committee and Staff Discussion.' After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Griffin stated that he would like to fund neighborhood improvements, sanitary sewers, specifically in the neighborhood of St. Marks and Maravilla and requested that CDBG funds in the amount of \$360,000 be awarded to those projects.

Ms. Woodruff explained that all CDBG funds for the 2015-2016 program year have been allocated and approved by HUD and that the next available CDBG funds would be available beginning October 1, 2016.

Ms. Woodruff exited the meeting to retrieve copies of the City's approved CDBG allocations for the 2015-2016 program year; returned and distributed copies of the allocation to the Council.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on CDBG-funded projects

Ms. Woodruff updated the CWC on CDBG funded Public Service and Commercial Façade projects for the 2015 program year, via a spreadsheet.

Mr. Griffin asked if there were additional CDBG monies available from previous years. Ms. Woodruff stated that there is no surplus CDBG funding available.

Ms. Woodruff explained the commercial façade grant project and stated that there were a few of the grantees who have not completed their projects. After a lengthy discussion, Ms. Szedlmayer made a motion that a certified letter be sent to the 2014-2015 commercial façade grant recipients that have not expended their funds, that they must submit for reimbursement on the project by the last day of February, 2016, or the Council will recommend to the City Commission that these funds be withdrawn. Mr. Griffin restated the motion as 'The grant award for the 2014-2015 commercial façade project not allocated by March 30, 2016 will be forfeited.'

Ms. Woodruff stated that she would provide information to the Communitywide Council at their February meeting to show how many Fort Pierce citizens were served via 2014-2015 public service agencies.

5. Committee and Staff Discussion

Ms. Szedlmayer stated that there are larger pots of money available for sanitary sewer improvements and stated that Amendment 1 may do this. Mr. Griffin asked if we should be interested in other grants and provided an overview of using CDBG funds for neighborhood improvement. Mr. Griffin stated that kids stepping in sewer water should receive higher priority. Ms. Szedlmayer stated that you don't get much septic to sewer conversion for \$450,000 and suggested that Ms. Woodruff's suggestion of using other grant opportunities meant that some of the CDBG funds might help us qualify for other funds to address this issue. Mr. Griffin stated that all of the neighborhoods in Fort Pierce are low-to-moderate income, which is the target group for this HUD program. He stated that when it comes to quality of life issues, that this is what should be important. Mr. Maige stated that there is much more to the sanitary sewer project that will result in very heavy numbers for this project. Mr. Griffin stated that he is here to push for this project.

Ms. Szedlmayer stated that she would like to have a mid-year report from Code Enforcement and the Community-Based Development Organizations and how they are using CDBG funds for their projects.

Ms. Woodruff described the SCORE workshops; November 18 – 23 businesses

participated. The next workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3. For small businesses that attend at least 2 workshops, they qualify to apply for small grants for their business – for something they can see feel and touch. She also explained the micro-enterprise development expenditure and that there has been a 16% increase in tourism in SLC last year.

Ms. Woodruff announced that the ribbon cutting for the Melody Lane Pier is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2 at 9:00am.

Mr. Cox suggested a presentation be given to the Communitywide Council by the FP Police Department to share the needs they have.

6. Adjournment

Ms. Mancini motioned and Mr. Griffin seconded that the Communitywide Council meeting adjourn; time – 7:37pm.