

CDAC MINUTES – Special Meeting
March 24, 2016
3:00 P.M.
Basement Conference Room – 23 Union Street

Members Present: Les King, Edward Derr, Brian Eckenrode, Robert Moore & Sophie Noblick

Members Absent: Democles Angelopoulos

Others Present: Gary Evans and Jacquie Barbarossa

Les King called the CDAC meeting to order at 2:46 PM.

Presentations

13. TVCCA – Home Again Project Homelessness In Place Prevention (Lisa Shippee) – presented

Ed Derr questioned what specifically program funds were used for. Lisa Shippee stated back rent and utilities in order to keep families in their homes and she mentioned collaboration with Norwich Human Services. She explained it was a one-time assistance. Sophie Noblick questioned the success rate and Ms. Shippee stated the HMIS tracking system showed 85% remained housed after 6 months.

14. Norwich Dept. of Public Works – Taftville Sidewalk Project – Pat McLaughlin – presentation attached

Pat McLaughlin explained this project would connect the existing sidewalks to the housing development at Ponemah Mills. He stated state permits would be obtained and a survey would be conducted to determine the right-of-way for construction. Ed Derr questioned if the utility poles needed to be moved. Pat said the survey would determine that but according to his calculations they would not.

15. Norwich Dept. of Public Works –Sidewalk Ramps – Pat McLaughlin – presentation attached

Pat McLaughlin stated there are more non-compliant sidewalk ramps through- out the City than listed on the application according to 2010 ADA regulations. Brain Eckenrode asked how they would be prioritized. Mr. McLaughlin stated they would start with the schools.

16. Norwich Dept. of Public Works – Playground Phase II – Pat McLaughlin – presentation attached

Les King questioned the improvements that had been done at the field already. Gary Evans stated that the activities, with the exception of the demolition of the structure, were within the confines of the program. There was discussion on the fencing and access to the park. Brian Eckenrode questioned whether the neighbors had been advised of the project and the impact to the neighborhood. Taftville resident Denise Relyea stated that many of the neighbors had been to meetings about the project and with the proposed fencing and tree plantings seemed to be okay with it.

17. Safe Futures – Norwich Domestic Violence Response Team (Catherine Zeiner) – presentation attached

Cathy Zeiner stated that prior funding has allowed Safe Futures to rebuild a presence in Norwich. There was discussion of the Victims Advocate role in the community and the ability to provide the much need services and counseling to those effected by domestic violence and sexual assault. It was also discussed that the Victim Advocate is allowed to speak on behalf of the victim in criminal court. Officer Belisle of the NPD gave an example of a woman that had been held captive by her husband and stated the program had saved her life.

18. City of Norwich Office of Community Development (Gary Evans & Wayne Sharkey) – Neighborhood Preservation/Property Rehabilitation Program – presentations attached

Wayne Sharkey stated the Property Rehab Program (Activity 1) provides people with at risk housing issues the opportunity to stay in their homes that don't have other financing options. He also stated the original "grant program" had been converted to a 0% interest payback that allows for the return of loan to be put back in the community. The current yearly average payback is around \$70,000 since it began approximately 5 years ago. He also stated the CD Office is currently applying for a new lead grant which CDBG match funds are needed in order to complete projects receiving lead hazard control. The office would not know of lead funding awards until possibly the end of June.

Gary Evans explained the Neighborhood Preservation Program (Activity 2) allows the CD office to rehabilitate City owned and bank foreclosures and sell to pre-qualified low-to-moderate-income first time home buyers. Mr. Evans stated he had received verbal commitments from multiple local banks and letters of support from Core Plus and Eastern Savings stating they would support the qualification/financing for this program. Payback at point of sale would be reinvested into another property creating funds to make the program more self-sufficient.

Les King questioned if the program had been reviewed with Corporation Counsel. Mr. Evans stated that the concept had been vetted but policies would need to be finalized with the attorneys.

There was discussion of the timing of the lead grant and lead issues within the community. Gary Evans pointed out the office has recently received notice from Uncas Health of 2 children at different properties with elevated blood lead levels - one was 27 and the other was 57. The child with a 57 EBLL is undergoing treatment at the hospital and upon discharge will not be able to return to their home. Uncas Health tracks children with EBLL's over 5 micrograms/dl. Ed Derr asked who helps the property owners in this type of situation. Gary stated without the lead grant or property rehab program the homeowners will have to find their own sources of funding.

19. City of Norwich Office of Community Development - Administration (Gary Evans) – budget attached

Gary Evans stated the budget was the cost to run the programs approved.

DELIBERATIONS

Les King pointed out the amount of funding versus applications

Brian Eckenrode expressed his frustration that many of the applications had inconsistencies especially in the accounting portion and when applicants were questioned they could not explain discrepancies.

There was discussion that many of the social service applications duplicated services and/or overlapped with other agencies.

The Committee liked the concept of the NCDL shared workspace plan but had an issue of using funds to hire 2 new employees. Gary Evans pointed out there is currently a CDAC approved job creation program which would be a better fit. NCDL could be eligible for up to two jobs for a total of \$20,000 if the CDAC Committee would amend the current policy to include non-profit economic development agencies.

Motion by Les King to amend the current Job Creation Policy to include "non-profit economic development agencies - second by Sophie Noblick - motion passed - unanimous.

CD Office Administration - CDAC Recommendation \$155,761.00

The Committee recommended funding CD Administration at 20% of the CDBG Program year 2016 grant as allowed by HUD since the office is required to run the program.

TVCCA – Home Again Project Homelessness In Place Prevention - CDAC Recommendation \$0

Norwich Adult Education- ESOL Instruction – CDAC Recommendation \$0

Our Piece of the Pie - Norwich Work Force Development - CDAC Recommendation \$0

Madonna Place – Fatherhood Initiative – CDAC Recommendation \$0 Committee was concerned that funding commitment level from other sources may impact success of program; our funding may not have intended impact as a result.

Safe Futures – Domestic Violence Response Team – CDAC Recommendation \$15,000

The Committee recommended full funding. The Victim Advocate addresses the need of those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault and the needed presence downtown for services which includes court advocacy

Thames River Family Program - Employment & Housing – CDAC

Recommendation \$0 Committee felt it was a great program but unfortunately funding restrictions requires reductions in programming. Employment and housing are carried out by other agencies and organizations need to collaborate in order to better stretch resources.

Norwich Human Services - Norwich Works - CDAC Recommendation \$48,884.49

The CDAC recommends full funding. The committee was pleased with how the program is run and the partnerships in the community.

Norwich Community Care Team - CDAC Recommendation \$15,000

The committee realizes the need and was pleased with the results and outcomes.

NCDC - CDAC Recommendation \$0

The application was difficult to categorize for CDBG purposes. Using CDBG under the job creation category requires significant oversight, policies and enforcement guidelines to be in-place. The current application would create a compliance issue. In addition, a job creation program containing such requirements is currently in operation and

managed by the City. The Committee amended the requirements of the Job Creation Policy to allow NCDL to request funding from that source for new hires.

Norwich Housing Authority - Roof Replacement Sunset Park Phase 2 - CDAC

Recommendation \$0 The Committee felt that the available funding for CDBG was limited and that Phase II of the Roof Replacements may need to wait as there are other resources available to address public housing maintenance needs.

Norwich Fire Department - Head Quarters Storage Facility - CDAC
Recommendation \$85,000

The Committee recommends full funding due to the need to protect the City's equipment, thereby prolonging its life-use and the project has been previously approved by them.

Norwich Public Works - Taftville Sidewalks Phase 1 - CDAC Recommendation
\$85,000

The Committee recommends full funding based on pedestrian safety and the increased foot traffic with the Ponemah Mills Housing project.

Norwich Public Works -Sidewalks Ramps - CDAC Recommendation \$0 The committee believes the project is worthwhile, but due to limited CDBG funding should be addressed through capital planning.

Norwich Public Works - Taftville Playground Phase II - CDAC Recommendation
\$65,000

The CDAC recommends 65% funding as stated in application based on community support and the benefit to low-to-moderate income families.

City of Norwich office of Community Development - Neighborhood
Preservation/Property Rehab - CDAC Recommendation - \$306,000

The Neighborhood Preservation program, which includes the Property Rehab Program will assist low to moderate income individuals by improving the housing stock in Norwich. The Neighborhood Preservation program will allow vacant/foreclosed homes to be put back on the tax rolls, increase homeownership rates, reduce housing cost burden and make the program more financially self-sufficient.

Habitat for Humanity – 244 Washington St. - Recommendation \$0 The committee believes strongly in the mission of Habitat but based on the construction timeline, availability of funds and the reduction of available CDBG, will not fund them this round. CDBG funds will not be available until September 1, 2016 and the committee believes the project should be completed prior to that date.

Disability Network - The CDAC Recommendation - \$5,000

The Committee realizes the need to address the safety issues of those with disabilities.

**Norwich Police Dept. - Taftville Public Safety Camera System Expansion
Adjournment- Recommendation \$0**

Motion was made by Sophie Noblick to adjourn meeting, second my Robert Moore, meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquie Barbarossa
Recording Secretary