

MINUTES

NEW ALBANY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

A special meeting of the New Albany Redevelopment Commission was held, on Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., in the Assembly Room, Room 331, City-County Building, New Albany, Indiana.

Commission Members Present: Irving Joshua, President
Adam Dickey, Vice President
Edward Hancock, Secretary
John Gonder

Commission Members Absent: Dan Coffey

Staff Members Present: Dave Duggins, Director of Redevelopment
John Rosenbarger, Public Works Projects Supervisor (PWPS)
Amanda Deatherage, Asst Director of Economic Development (ADED)
Cyndi Krauss, Financial/Compliance Manager (FCM)
Trish Tobbe, Neighborhood Initiatives Assistant (NIA)
Jessica Campbell, Public Facilities Specialist (PFS)

Others Present: Danielle Archer, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Charities
Michael Gardner, New Directions Housing Corporation (6 p.m. hearing)
Vince Klein, New Albany-Floyd County Schools
Carol Kanappel, Hope Southern Indiana
Kent McDaniel, H.E.L.P.
Kathy Wilkerson, New Albany Parks Department

The President called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m., and the roll was called. Mr. Coffey was absent.

The first item of business was the **Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) One-Year Action Plan.**

Ms. Kannapel, Hope Southern Indiana spoke of the Pack the Bus program. It provides backpacks filled with basic school supplies to children in grades K-8 enrolled in the Free Lunch Program. Pack the Bus has received CDBG funding in the past, and Hope Southern Indiana is requesting \$4,000 this year, which is enough to provide backpacks for approximately 200 eligible children.

Ms. Wilkerson, New Albany Parks requested funding for the Youth Enrichment Program. Cooking classes, bullying education, field trips and sports camps are some of the activities funded with CDBG money from previous years. Ms. Wilkerson said that the Parks Department would like to present a Power Point presentation to the Commission regarding the activities. She also stated that a small, four-hole disc golf course was being installed behind the Griffin location. The kids would be able to check out discs to play.

The President asked why not use the area for baseball or softball since the back stop is in place. Ms. Wilkerson said the drainage problem prevents that. Huge holes form after rain, and the Parks Department

has flagged the areas and fills in the holes as much as possible. The problem has been mentioned to the Storm Water board and been occurring for years.

Mr. Dickey requested the Parks Department keeps track of the use and interest of the course. He mentioned the recent request of an eighteen-hole course. Ms. Wilkerson stated that the kids attended a disc golf clinic and are ready to play. The four baskets will be portable and can be removed during winter.

The Director asked how much the baskets cost. Ms. Wilkerson said each basket was about \$250 and stated that Binford Park would be an ideal location for a disc golf course.

Kent McDaniel, H.E.L.P. thanked the Commission for supporting the Recidivism program in the past. He stated that numbers are showing a decrease in recidivism in the past three years since the program started and hope to have continued support for the program.

The President asked if the \$4,000 of CDBG funding covers all the costs. Mr. McDaniel stated the program has received support from the Horseshoe foundation. The President stated that it was good to have some data regarding the outcome of the program and asked how the program was received by those in law enforcement. Mr. McDaniel said that on a working level, it has been a positive experience and the new head of the jail has been a supporter from the beginning.

Ms. Archer, St. Elizabeth's stated that this organization received \$50,000 for property acquisition to create more permanent housing this past fiscal year and is requesting another \$50,000 for the same purpose. St. Elizabeth's provides transitional housing for young families looking to provide a better life for their children. This year, St. Elizabeth's is using the \$50,000 to purchase a duplex on the campus. The funding for fiscal year 2013 would extend on-campus permanent housing. St. Elizabeth's has seven units (which include the soon-to-be acquired duplex) and have identified three more units for purchase.

The President asked how the organization chooses property to purchase. Ms. Archer stated that homeowners in between St. Elizabeth's buildings have expressed an interest in moving and selling the property to the organization.

Vince Klein, NA-FC Schools represented a consortium of organizations that receive funding for youth after-school programming. This group of organizations has received funding from CDBG for years. After-school care is viewed as essential, not just a convenience. It encourages volunteering, helps with academics, stresses anti-crime activities and it helps working parents. Families have a variety of needs when it comes to after-school programs. Some families need it every day, others only a few days a week. The organizations offer a variety of time tables and locations to best fit the needs of parents. Full-time after-school care is provided by the YMCA, whereas Open Door Youth Services and Our Place provide part-time after-school programs.

The groups are proposing approximately the same level of service as Fiscal Year 12: YMCA -56 children, Our Place-76 children, Open Door Youth Services-44 children. The request for funding was \$27,176.

The President stated that as the money gets tighter, the need for program outcome data becomes more crucial. Data regarding minorities, heads of households and the total number of children served is important, but it is also important to provide the Commission with data demonstrating the success of the programs. It is a situation of helping prepare the Commission to fight for more funding by supplying more information. Mr. Klein stated they have that type of information and will pull it together for the Commission.

The President closed the **Public Hearing** at 3:00 p.m.

The **Public Hearing reconvened at 6:00 p.m.**

The PWPS explained the timeline of drafting and adopting the CDBG One-Year Action Plan. He stated the end of the thirty-day comment period is April 23, 2013, and the Commission would then adopt the plan. Once the Commission adopts the plan, the Council will adopt a Resolution to formally authorize the submitting of the plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City is in the fourth year of the five year CDBG plan.

Michael Gardner, New Directions Housing Corporation requested CDBG funding for two programs. The Emergency Repair Program focuses on helping homeowners with emergency repairs, such as roof repair, hot water heater, furnace and gutter repair. Each house can only receive \$7,500 worth of work, and New Directions requested \$200,000 for work on 33 homes. New Directions is on pace to help 40 homeowners this year and have an extensive pipeline of owners requesting repairs. This program has been funded by CDBG before.

The second program New Directions requested funds for was the Repair Affair program. Repair Affair is celebrating its 20th year. It is a volunteer driven program to help elderly or disabled homeowners stay in their homes. Repairs range from handrails and accessibility ramps to fixing doors or windows. There are volunteer opportunities for all skill levels. June 8th is the Southern Indiana event kick-off day. New Directions is requesting \$10,000 for program delivery and will work on twelve homes. This program has been previously funded by CDBG.

The **Public Hearing adjourned at 6:20 p.m.**

Mr. Gonder had questions regarding funding amounts and the qualifications of being an Entitlement City. The FCM stated that several factors determine entitlement status: size, self-sufficiency and income. Money is given to the entitlement cities first and then the rest of the balance to the states. The PWPS stated that not being an entitlement city would take away certain luxuries, such as planning five years in advance. With non-entitlement cities, each project is independent and only lasts a few months.

The Director stated that non-entitlement cities can only have two programs running at a time. The sidewalk projects and the number of programs available at one time is something unique to entitlement cities.

The President clarified that the funds have decreased significantly over time. Mr. Dickey stated the importance of maintaining entitlement status with respect to criteria changes.

The FCM stated the Commission needed to authorize the draft plan for Fiscal Year 2013 to be published.

Mr. Dickey asked how the funding for the First Time Homebuyer Program was used. The FCM stated it was used to assist families with home ownership education requirements. Mr. Dickey also asked about the Direct Down Payment Assistance. The FCM stated there has been a drop-off in the number of people applying for this program. The Director said that it was important to keep it in the plan so that the service remains available; if it is not in the plan, the funds cannot be used in that manner.

The FCM clarified that the Commission needed to authorize this plan to be published as a draft, but comments for the next thirty days will be addressed and can provide some changes to the plan. The plan will be re-visited to adopt a final draft at the end of the thirty days.

Mr. Dickey made a motion to approve the draft for publishing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hancock and carried by a vote of 4-0.

The next item of business was the **Approval of the Cripe Engineering Contract for Binford Park/Hoosier Panel Site.**

The Director stated that this was the third and final contract for the design phase for Binford Park and the preliminary contract for the Hoosier Panel site. Binford Park is the proposed space for soccer, football and multi-sport facility. The Hoosier Panel site is proposed for an indoor/outdoor multi-sport facility.

The President asked what will be provided for \$46,400 to Binford Park. The Director said that wetland/surface waters determination, wetland delineation, geotechnical engineering and topographic survey. Also included in the plan are lighting and drainage design.

The President asked about the future of the shelter and basketball courts already located at Binford Park. The Director stated that they are to be refurbished as well as more parking made available. He also said that Cannons Acres will be seeded and drainage issues will be addressed.

Mr. Dickey made a motion to approve the Cripe contract for \$183,400. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gonder and carried by a vote of 4-0.

There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Approved and Adopted this 9th day of April, 2013.

Irving Joshua, President

Edward Hancock, Secretary