

MINUTES

Citizen's District Council Meeting
City of Muskegon CDBG
Conference Room 203
Muskegon, Michigan
Tuesday, January 6, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Patricia Montney at 5:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Liz Parker.

Present: Patricia Montney, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Dan Rinsema-Sybenga,
Addie Sanders-Randall, Virgie Jackson, Thomas Pastoor, Stephen
Gawron

Excused: James A. Dalum, G. Ellouise Hieftje, Ryan McCabe

Staff Present: Wilmern Griffin, Liz Parker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dan Rinsema-Sybenga made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting (November 13, 2008). Marcia Hovey-Wright seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **City Commission Approvals for Program Changes**

Wil Griffin advised the group the City Commission approved the elimination of the qualifications of first-time home-buyers and the three years since owning a home from the HOME program. A Public Notice announcing this will appear in the Muskegon Chronicle on Saturday, January 10. Pat Montney would like to see the program added to the City's website. The City Commission also approved the combining of liens for the Emergency Repair program.

NEW BUSINESS

- **January Term Expiration Dates for Five Members**

The following members' term will expire on January 31, 2009:

Patricia Montney	A – rep for one of 4 wards – Ward I
Marcia Hovey-Wright	A – rep for one of 4 wards – Ward II
James A. Dalum	A – rep for one of 4 wards – Ward III
G. Ellouise Hieftje	A – rep for one of 4 wards – Ward IV
Dan Rinsema-Sybenga	B – citizen at large

Pat Montney, Marcia Hovey-Wright and Dan Rinsema-Sybenga have submitted their applications to renew their terms. James Dalum notified the group at the last meeting he will not renew his term as he is not available when the CDC has the grant review meetings. Ellouise Hieftje notified Liz Parker she will not renew her term as she has been on the CDC for almost 10 years and needs to decrease her community activity load. Ryan McCabe, whose term doesn't expire until January 31, 2010 (C – CDBG target area rep), notified Liz Parker he has to resign from the board due to a scheduling conflict with his attending WMU. Liz Parker notified the City Clerk's Office that replacements for these positions are needed ASAP.

Marcia Hovey-Wright wanted to know what a Target Area was. Wil Griffin explained that some neighborhoods in the City of Muskegon were considered low income at one time, and they were considered Target Areas: McLaughlin, Angell and Jackson Hill, to name a few. However, over the years, with the changing economy, many of the neighborhoods in the City of Muskegon are now considered a Target Area.

There is concern about getting replacements in time for the grant review meetings, starting the end of January. Pat Montney is concerned if everyone else does not show up for these meetings, there won't be a quorum. Steve Gawron said the appointments can be made at any time by calling a special meeting. Pat Montney wanted to know when the appointments changed from December to January. Per Steve Gawron, it's been January since he's been on the City Commission for the last seven years.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Grant Review Meetings**

Pat Montney brought up the question of when the City of Muskegon will be notified by HUD of the amounts for the 2009 – 2010 CDBG/HOME grant funding. Wil Griffin stated HUD has advised everyone to use the same numbers as last year since they don't know when they will be announcing the funding amounts. Dan Rinsema-Sybenga said "at least it's not a cut."

Liz Parker handed out a list of who has applied for a CDBG/HOME grant application. Pat Montney wanted to know when all this was going to go before the City Commission. Wil Griffin said the City of Muskegon Administration will give their recommendations after all the applications are received and reviewed. Then, after the CDC completes all their grant review meetings and makes their recommendations, the grant worksheet will be updated and submitted to the City Commission. The CDC will be notified of the City

Commission meetings/work sessions in which this will be discussed and/or final grant decisions made. Wil Griffin said April 17 is the deadline he has to give the final decision to HUD. Pat Montney thought we should schedule an additional grant review meeting as three are currently scheduled and last year the CDC held four full meetings. The group decided on Thursday, February 12, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. as the fourth grant review meeting date.

Pat Montney wanted to know what City of Muskegon departments were applying for a grant. Wil Griffin said it was the usual: CNS – administration of CDBG & HOME programs, Vinyl Siding and Emergency Repair; Finance – new fire station bond payment; Planning – façades and Code Enforcement Officer; Engineering – street assessments; Affirmative Action; Leisure Services – youth services and DPW – Sr. Transit.

- **YouthBuild Grant**

Wil Griffin wanted to let the group know the CNS department will be applying for a YouthBuild grant through the Department of Labor. The YouthBuild Grant is designed to assist youth ages 16 – 24, who are unemployed or don't have their high school diploma, get their high school diploma or GED, learn construction skills and hopefully continue on to a community college.

- **Mark Your Calendars**

The **CDC reviews** will be **5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room 203 on**
Thursday, January 29, 2009
Tuesday, February 3, 2009
Thursday, February 5, 2009
Thursday, February 12, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

Patricia Montney adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Liz Parker
Community and Neighborhood Services
City of Muskegon