

MINUTES

Citizen's District Council Meeting
City of Muskegon CDBG
Conference Room 203
Muskegon, Michigan
Tuesday, August 17, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Pat Montney at 5:49 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Liz Parker.

Present: Patricia Montney, Rasheedah Gillespie-Muhammad, Virgie Jackson,
Thomas Pastoor, Addie Sanders-Randall

Absent: Tiffany Seals, Stephen Gawron

Excused: Ned Carter, Amy Varnado

Staff Present: Oneata Bailey, Liz Parker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pat Montney is asking Liz to pull the minutes (July 17, 2010) because there is an area that needs to be added back into the minutes. Under the Five-year Consolidated Plan on pages 3 and 4 Cathy Brubaker-Clarke made mention the goals were the City goals. Pat made mention it was community input that was the biggest part of the goals as well. Tom Pastoor added when Pat said City, she means the City leaders and City Commission and the City goals that are made up of the community and the City Commission. Pat agreed. Tom thinks what the CDC is doing is in line with what HUD would have them do under the Citizen Participation section. Pat wants to delay the approval of the July 17, 2010 minutes until this clarification gets back into the minutes. Rasheedah Gillespie-Muhammad asked Pat to state verbally what she wants back in the minutes. Cathy Brubaker-Clarke was talking about the Consolidated Plan is the City's goals. It is the community's goals.

OLD BUSINESS

- **NIC – 2010-2011 HOME**

Pat Montney asked Oneata Bailey for an update on NIC's (Neighborhood Investment Corporation) funding since the Chronicle stated they were in trouble. Oneata said NIC is now close. The two women, who were the only staff left and who were doing foreclosures, were looking for an agency to absorb them. They asked CNS if they could come into the City; but, when the City Manager opens up an office to an entity he expects payment,

which there is no way CNS could absorb any agency unless they could financially support themselves. One lady relocated to Lansing while the other is at her home and offered to help if we have a homebuyer who needs assistance and we would pay her directly. What CNS found out from MSHDA is that NIC was being given money to provide services to the community. Now that those services are not being provided by them, Community enCompass said they would like to take over where NIC left off. MSHDA has agreed to allow them to absorb some of those programs. One of them is homebuyer programs if a person needs their home rehabbed. In the meantime, CNS is holding the HOME funds that were identified to go to NIC. NIC's board president didn't want to close but because they didn't have any income they had to close. NIC does have some funds coming in from their rentals above their office. Through the grant process our CHDO's (Community Housing Development Organizations), Community enCompass, Muskegon County Habitat for Humanity and NIC were awarded HOME funds. Tom Pastoor added that some years NIC wasn't always able to use all the money. Oneata said they still were awarded money again this year but then they closed after they signed the agreement. Rasheedah Gillespie-Mohammad asked if NIC still had the money from before. Oneata explained the money gets taken back if it's not used at the end of every grant year. If there are any programs CNS has, then they use that money themselves to cover their expenses. We are currently holding \$30,000. Rasheedah wanted to know if those funds could go to Community enCompass. Oneata said no because they were set aside for NIC. Tom asked if Community enCompass is doing the work of NIC are they getting compensated by MSHDA? Oneata said they are being compensated through MSHDA. CNS's HOME funds are an agreement between an agency and the City for specific things and don't have anything to do with MSHDA. MSHDA took back their funds from NIC. Community enCompass said they wanted to do the work and MSHDA said yes. Community enCompass has also asked CNS if they could have NIC's HOME funds but they will sit until the end of the grant year. Tom then asked if someone will make a decision at the end of the grant year that the money goes for some other purpose. Oneata said yes, but it is only for HOME projects, not CDBG projects. HOME funds are meant to produce a home unit. Tim Burgess, who was the Executive Director of NIC, is now working at the Land Bank. Rasheedah wanted to know since Tim was now with the Land Bank will that agency go in the direction of NIC. Oneata explained the agreement for HOME funds was with NIC, not the Land Bank. NIC's board hopes they can reopen. Currently everyone NIC was working with received a letter just before they closed. NIC has until May 31, 2011 to reopen and get HOME funds from CNS.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Review CAPER 2009 – 2010 Progress – Muskegon and Norton Shores**

The CAPER that was last submitted was edited and updated with the new information for all the programs and accomplishments of last year. We will be three days late in submitting the CAPER because of the public notices we had to put in the Chronicle vs. their deadline schedule. Tom Pastoor asked to explain the difference between Operation R & R goals and objectives and the other goals and objectives listed in the CAPER. He thought the R&R was to support the other goals. Oneata said that is correct. She said Wil Griffin set out to establish something new, which was Operation R & R, to build a foundation from which the Academic Olympics was going to be placed. It was a way to get out into the community. Tom said this was a way for Wil to get someone else to shepherd the activities besides the schools, but everyone to jump on board including banks and

businesses. Banks, schools and businesses weren't able to offer what they would have liked because everyone was cutting back. This was to specifically help kids by tickling their brains just before they go back to school and take the MEAP Test. It would be interesting to see the difference in test scores with the Academic Olympics vs. not having the Academic Olympics. Tom said there are also other ways to encourage kids especially when you look at how much money was spent for the event; did you get enough return on your invest. Of course, any return on kids is worth it. Is there a better way?

Pat Montney noticed on page 16 of the CAPER that Streets had \$0 spent and wanted to know where that unspent money goes. Oneata said she would have to ask the Finance Clerk. Tom said after the books are closed he would really like to see the numbers of what really happened. Oneata said that information would be available after June. Pat thought IDIS reports would show the information. Oneata said the HOME IDIS reports show your accomplishments. She was not familiar with the CDBG IDIS reports. The question was asked what IDIS stands for. It is Integrated Disbursement & Information System. Tom asked if there is other federal money available. Oneata said there is ESG (homeless) and HOWPA (native Indians), which the City does not get. There is also CDBG-R (stimulus funds), which was used to pave White Avenue. Tom asked if they wanted to do something for more integration with the community and community involvement in the decision making and spending money then it would have to be with CDBG funds. Oneata confirmed it would be CDBG funds. CNS does not get other funds other then CDBG for that purpose. Pat asked where the unspent money would go. Oneata advised it would go for programs that are over budget, such as Emergency Repair. Tom said that is what he'd like to see; where money was budgeted to go vs. where it was really spent. Oneata said this would be something perfect for the fall when communities come in to ask for grants and we can say: "this is what you spent last year." This could be a reason to give more of less money to an organization. What Oneata would like to do differently this November is possibly to ask for the grant applications in October and give us time in January to have the grant review meetings and not always running into the latter part of the reporting time. This would help in keeping with the timeline. Tom said one of the things Wil tried to do was use money for graffiti removal and have other ways to use federal funds to supplant what is already being done by the City. Tom said one example is the \$1,500 that the neighborhood associations receive from the City. Perhaps that money could come from CDBG funds and save the City some money. Pat said in the past her neighborhood association received funds for their fire barn for the roof, but not all the neighborhood associations are 501 (c) 3. Rasheedah asked if NAM has a 501 (c) 3. Liz explained only the individual neighborhood associations can have the 501 (c) 3. If the association budget is under \$2,500, they don't need the designation. However, if they want to apply for grants then they need to be a 501 (c) 3.

Pat asked about page 17 that Weatherization spent \$0. She felt there should be a notation that those funds were amended to moved to the Lead program. Oneata said this was absorbed in the Lead Abatement program. Some of the lead abatement costs for some of the households were much more than anticipated. The funds were moved from HOME to the lead program. Pat felt it should have come to the CDC for vote before it went to the Commission. It was also mentioned the graffiti money from CDBG did not go before the CDC.

Tom said Oneata did a good job on the CAPER. Oneata commented on the last page with the picture of the statue at the traffic circle at Western and Third (Muskegon Rising

Together). It has a nice theme that together we can rise to do what we need to do in this community and hopefully this next year will prove to be that much more successful.

OTHER BUSINESS

Liz reminded everyone she hadn't received the changes people wanted to the grant applications besides the summary page. If people want to make comments for the CAPER, please email them to Liz before the end of the month.

There will not be a meeting in September.

ADJOURNMENT

Pat Montney adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Liz Parker
Community and Neighborhood Services
City of Muskegon