

MINUTES

Citizen's District Council Meeting
City of Muskegon CDBG
Muskegon, Michigan
Thursday, August 7, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Patricia Montney at 5:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Liz Parker.

Present: Patricia Montney, Marcia Hovey-Wright, James A. Dalum, G. Ellouise Hieftje, Dan Rinsema-Sybenga, Addie Sanders-Randall, Virgie Jackson, Ryan McCabe

Excused: Michael J. Miller

Absent: Stephen Gawron

Staff Present: Wilmern Griffin, Liz Parker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dan made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting (April 7, 2008). Marcia seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **CDC Participation Process for Last Grant Process**

Pat wanted to let everyone know that their voices do count.

- **Action Plan – Citizen Participation**

Marcia wanted to know what was said at the Community Relations Meeting on May 5 in which the CDC was invited. The purpose of the meeting was to clear the air between the CDC and the City Commission because the Commission made changes to the CDBG/HOME grants after their Commission Meeting at their next working session without a public hearing. Liz got a copy of the minutes from the Community Relations meeting and it just listed #1 as Community Development Block Grant allocations, with

no notations. Liz looked back through her notes from that meeting and the Mayor admitted they made a mistake. He suggested the CDC get together at a work session prior to the CDBG/HOME grant process. Wil suggested the City Commission get a copy of the CDC minutes for the grant process. Wil said there is an issue of communication and suggested a joint meeting prior to the process starting. The CDC should try to schedule the interview meetings where they are not in conflict with the Commission meetings or else have Steve get excused from the Commission meetings. Addie appreciated everyone's time to meet and listen to the CDC. Ellouise said the meeting was accomplished without any fights. Marcia said it sounds like you heard us.

NEW BUSINESS

• **Mike Miller**

Mike is a member of the CDC and approximately 6 weeks ago he had a thoracic aneurysm. During the surgery to save his life he had a stroke. He is in the process of receiving rehab therapy at Lifecare at the old General Hospital on 1700 Oak Avenue. He can't swallow and isn't talking. He does recognize people when they come to visit. He is in need of more advanced rehab therapy. It appears he will be out of commission for a number of months. We all signed a get well card for him.

• **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The current Chair is Patricia Montney and the Vice Chair was James Dalum. The terms for these positions are for two years. All members of the CDC have a three-year term. For the position of Chair, Marcia nominated Pat. Dan seconded. The motion passed. For the position of Vice Chair, Jim said he is not willing to serve again since he usually winters in Arizona. Ryan nominated Ellouise and she declined. Marcia nominated herself and Ellouise seconded. The motion passed.

There was a question on when terms expired. The following is a list of the CDC members and when their term expires:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Composition</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
James Dalum	(A) Rep for one of 4 wards	1/31/2009
G. Ellouise Hieftje	(A) Rep for one of 4 wards	1/31/2009
Marcia Hovey-Wright	(A) Rep for one of 4 wards	1/31/2009
Virgie Jackson	(C) CDBG Target Area Rep	1/31/2010
Ryan McCabe	(C) CDBG Target Area Rep	1/31/2010
Michael J. Miller	(B) Citizen at large	1/31/2010
Patricia Montney	(A) Rep for one of 4 wards	1/31/2009
Dan Rinsema-Sybenga	(B) Citizen at large	1/31/2010
Addie Sanders-Randall	(B) Citizen at large	1/31/2010
Stephen Gawron	(D) Member of the City Commission	no term

Staff

Wilmern Griffin	Staff Liaison	no term
Liz Parker	CNS Secretary	no term

- **First Annual Muskegon Unity Academic Olympics**

Wil introduced this event. The City of Muskegon, along with the Muskegon Public Schools (MPS), is sponsoring this event. There are a lot of co-sponsors: Community Shores Bank, Sappi, McLaughlin Neighborhood Association, Muskegon Community College, Nelson Neighborhood Improvement Association, Success Enterprise, Weber Lumber, Keene Lumber, Community Foundation and Consumers Energy Foundation, to name a few.

The games are for grades 1 – 8. The areas to be tested will include math, language, technology, geography. Wil wants to make this fun. The reasons for this event are:

1. To get the kids ready to go back to school
2. To prepare the kids for the MEAP Test
3. To show the kids the community is coming together to reinforce the importance of education

The games are scheduled for Saturday, August 23 at Nelson Elementary School field from 11am – 2pm. Sign-in will begin at 10am. There will also be information booths. Free t-shirts will be given to each participant at sign-in. First, second and third place winners will receive a gold, silver or bronze medal respectively. There will also be a certificate to all who participate. MPS students can participate for free. Non-MPS participants must pay a \$20 entry fee. When a resident of Muskegon student goes to a non-MPS, MPS loses \$7,500/child. This is the reason for the entry fee. The bulk of the money is donated. Tax money is from the CNS department, which is paying for the t-shirts. Marcia wanted to know what the goal was for kids. Wil advised her it was 300, but he'd be happy with 200. Currently we have 4 participants. The Tot Spot is an area for children who are toddlers to under first grade. There will be a moon walk, train, coloring, free fingerprinting from the Police Dept. and free lead testing. Marcia volunteered her husband to be a judge. Addie and Virgie also volunteered as judges and Ellouise as a volunteer. The role of the judges will be to compare the test answers to the answer sheets and calculate the score. It was suggested that Wil go to the Little League games at Oakview School and Campbell Field. There is also an activity going on at Rowan Park in Muskegon Heights on August 16, starting at 9:30 am. Marcia suggested Americore. Wil has already given Tom Pastoor registration forms. Baker College is donating pencils with their name on it. Wil has three different commercials airing on the radio, including station 103.7; plus information on the Community Calendar for Channel 13 and Wood TV 8. Wil wants everyone to pass the word. Liz handed out flyers and registration forms to everyone.

- **Review CAPER**

Everyone had previously received a copy of the Third Year CAPER. Any organization receiving HUD funds must write a five-year plan, then an Action Plan for the new year and the CAPER for the prior year. The CNS department has met or exceeded many objectives while being on target for others.

- #3 - For Vinyl Siding, CNS need to complete 26 more homes by 2010, which Wil says won't be a problem.

- #4 - For Rental Rehab, Wil confirmed 10 out of a goal of 16 units are complete. The fee charged to the landlord is \$150 for \$7,000 worth of work. It is a 50/50 match.
- #5 – To remove rubbish and blight, goal is 250. Marcia wants to know what the current number completed is. Wil checked and 2,909 have been done.
- #6 – This goal is for funds we give to the non-profits and this shows how many people need the assistance for which there are never enough funds.
- #7 – To replace and improve the City's infrastructure, this is an incomplete section that needs to be updated. Wil said the \$240,000+ was for the Shoreline Drive and Special Assessments for road construction. In prior years this was also for sidewalks.

Under General Questions for objectives,

- #2 – Total Housing Rehab, Wil wants to verify the total of \$463,248.66. Wil confirmed the amount was \$112,628.
- #4 – For the Rehab of Rental Units, Wil said two units were done for approximately \$25,000 each.
- #5 – Of the total of \$332,808, \$245,000+ went to the bond repayment.
- #7 – Improve the City's infrastructure, Wil said this funding came from CDBG funds.

Under the Lease with Option to Purchase program, this was set up to try and sell the two oldest homes in CNS's inventory: 435 Monroe and 867 Williams. This is for home-buyers who were previously turned down for a mortgage but really want to own a home. Both houses are now leased. Monroe is being leased to a woman working for the Muskegon Heights Housing Dept. and her three grandkids. Hopefully she will be approved for a mortgage by the end of this year. Williams is leased to a family. The people in these homes are taking pride in their property and providing more curb appeal to the neighborhood. Marcia commented this is turning out to be a good program.

This program and others come about because of Operation R & R (Reawakening and Resurgence). Quarterly meetings are held with a variety of the community: community officers, businesses, service providers, ministries and students. The meetings deal with social issues from the bottom up. The discussions center around what the participants feel are problems with their neighborhoods: quality of life, loitering, sagging pants on kids, absentee landlords and more community activities, especially for our youth. Operation R & R also got recognized by the National League of Cities during their National Convention in New Orleans in 2007. Operation R & R has sponsored neighborhood clean-ups (one with a cookout) and an anti-litter poster contest for MPS students from first through 12th grades. First, second and third place winners received savings bonds of \$100, \$75 or \$25 respectively. The bonds were split between Fifth Third Bank, of which we purchased them and Bank of America, which donated the bonds.

Under the Rehab program CNS is now providing garages by working with the Michigan Corrections Facility. They produce the walls for the garages and then we have a contractor put up the garage. The cost is approximately \$8,500 instead of \$15,000.

Under CDBG and HOME Activity, it was questioned how Wil funds projects which have been over spent. He explained that when he started with the City of Muskegon in 1999, the HOME program was very behind back to 1992. Because money could be carried over, there was enough for him to do many projects. Now there is no money left in the reserves. HOME funds get income from the sale of housing. Under CDBG activity, Façade was listed at \$0.00. Wil thought that was because they previously had funds from the year before and did not use funds from last year. Wil confirmed this is the case. Unused money can be carried over. Wil will also verify spent funds on the HOME activities of Rental Rehab and Infill/New Construction.

For the Muskegon Lead S.A.F.E. program, we had 13 applications before we got our funding in March. Homes with kids under six who have elevated blood levels are served first.

Each year the City of Muskegon gets less and less funds from HUD. They don't want to be perpetual caretakers, but to help as many different people as possible. This year they are trying to reserve Emergency Repair funds for furnaces this winter. They also had a weatherization project where 22 homes got windows, doors, basement glass-block windows and furnaces. Part of this was due to the fact that heating costs will be going up this winter.

There are currently five houses in the CNS inventory: 218 Catherine in McLaughlin, 539 Orchard, 214 Myrtle and 451 Isabella in Angell and 1581 Division in Nims.

OTHER BUSINESS

Unless there is activity that warrants a meeting in October, the next CDC meeting will be in November. It was originally scheduled for Tuesday, November 4. Since this is Election Day, we will be rescheduling the meeting for another date in November. Liz gave out dates of Thursday, November 6 and Wednesday, November 12. There were six votes for November 6 and three votes for November 12. The next CDC meeting will be on **Thursday, November 6, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room 203.**

ADJOURNMENT

Patricia Montney adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.