

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
Human Resource Conference Room
Public Service Building – 3rd Floor
625 Murray Street, Alexandria, LA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.

Members Present:

Kendra Gauthier
Sandra Augustine
Joyce Thompson
Edna Pellerin
Shirley Branham
Edna Woodard
Dianne Bonin

MEETING OPENED – Shirley Branham – Director of Community Development

INTRODUCTIONS: Board members and Community Development Staff. Each gave a brief bio of themselves:

SHIRLEY – Stated she started this job in November 2015 after David Gray who was the previous director and the time he was here. There are a lot of rules and regulations you have to do. This is the 3rd meeting.

Shared with the group the November meeting with all 5 target neighborhood groups, how they had decided to consolidate all neighborhoods, since they all could share their needs in one meeting and it was very successful. Is thinking about doing it again this year. Had a lot of positive input about it also. Sent out flyers to churches, neighborhood groups, private sectors. Was in the Town Talk, etc.

JOYCE THOMPSON - Is filling in for Nell Deville representing the Elderly.

JOYCE – Do you have to be a resident of Alexandria to serve on this board?

SHIRLEY – Explained.

JOYCE – Also stated they never received their funding.

KENDRA – Stated she has not received her funding neither.

SHIRLEY – Will contact persons and gave them name and phone numbers.

REVIEW OF 2015 – 2016

SHIRLEY – We did 46 houses with CDBG Minor Rehab Program. This is the \$5,000 per house. HOME MAJOR REHAB, 6 houses. Stated when Brenda Ray was director there a limit of \$25,000 per house. We want to set this program up again and if possible limit it to \$40,000. This HOME Program is to bring the houses up to

100%, but if it tested for lead we cannot do it. We have tested 37 and 6 did not have lead. Another thing if it is in flood areas we cannot do this \$40,000. Further discussion were on this. By the end of April we should be completed.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – 248 complaints. All were within the 5 target areas. Because of these complaints we are going to the city council on March 7, 2017 for public hearing to condemn 142 properties. We are asking the advisory to come to the council on March 7. We get about 2-5 complaints per week. Further discussion were on this. We are limited on our HUD funds.

OBSTACLES –

1. Finding contractors to participate in both rehab programs
2. Sufficient funds to demolish condemned properties. Need 2 or 3 contractor to do the work.
3. Demo Program Manager position is still vacant. I am having to do all of this and staff has stepped up to help.

KENDRA – What is the criteria? Shirley explained.

SHIRLEY – Is still waiting on HUD reversals of 2014 ruling. We are limited for demolition to 30% CDBG awards. Explained what had happened since her administration. Happened 5/16 and has not heard from HUD on final ruling. Was told we would have to pay back \$360,000.

SANDRA – Who is the attorney?

SHIRLEY – The mayor is going to Washington tomorrow. They will not give us the audit of 2016. We have already spent \$365,000. We have not gotten our 2016-2017 monies. Talked about the monies she had to move.

Public comment ended – 12/2/16 for CDBG. There were no comments.

SHIRLEY – We are expecting to receive about \$590,000 if we get all our money. We will have quite a lot of money to spend.

2016 NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING'S INPUT FOR THE ANNUAL PLAN

SHIRLEY – At the November 2016 Public Hearing we asked the Neighborhood groups what would they like to see for their areas. All groups said major rehab, minor rehab and demolitions as their top priorities. If we get our money we can go back and do credit counseling, explained the scope of this program and the reason why for 2017-2018.

KENDRA – Does the banks do credit counseling?

SHIRLEY – YES and explained.

SHIRLEY – In 2016 we tried to do the HAP program and seminar. Stated we had 33 signing up and 8 showed up. With the 8 their credit was not good but we want to work with that. Stated did not put credit counseling in as one of the top priorities because funding is so limited.

2017-2018 ANTICIPATED ENTITLEMENTS

1. \$35,000 Code Enforcement
2. 30% on low/mod areas on CDBG Demo.
3. \$121,000 about 8 houses.
4. Minor Rehab – Delivery (explained) \$132,000 – 25 houses
5. Stated we had 120 applicants to apply
6. Major Rehab – 123,750 – 2 or 3 houses with HOME funds
7. CHDO-R (15% of HOME Grant) - we do have a CHDO
8. \$24,750 – we might have to return to HUD

JOYCE – What is a CHDO?

KENDRA – Community Housing Development Organization

SHIRLEY – Explained the problems with Inner City

SHIRLEY – Stated the administration wants us to spend on demolition \$320,000. Talked about our focus on demos, slums and blight. On low/mod you can only spend 30%. You can spend as LMH any amount. Any questions?

NEW BUSINESS –
Replacement of Melinda Robinson

KENDRA – Asked about Kathy Vanderlick. She is at the YWCA.

SHIRLEY – Did she call?

EDNA – No.

KENDRA – Was she on the committee before?

SHIRLEY - Did not know. Would get in touch with her. Our next meeting will be July 13, 2017. This will be for you all to review the CAPER and approval. This is the Consolidated Annual Plan Evaluation. Also, our next year meeting will be in preparation for our Annual Plan for our activities and budgets. January 11, 2018. We need to vote on the board's approval.

KENDRA – Motion to accept, seconded by Sondra non opposed.

SHIRLEY – By you names put approval – any questions? Further discussions were on the homeless situation.

SHIRLEY – Any questions?

MEETING ADJOURNED.