

City of Alexandria - Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Customer Service Building, Third Floor at 625 Murray Street, HR Conference Room
Wednesday January 9, 2019 – 10:00 AM

A. INTRODUCTIONS

1. Opening Prayer
2. Appreciate member participation!
3. Purpose of the meeting – to review the 2019-2020 PROPOSED Annual Action Plan
4. Acknowledge staff's hard work!

B. ACTION ITEMS

1. Review 2018-2019 obstacles.
 - a. Received FY2018 funds 5 months late. City had to front the money. Re-allocated FY2017 funds.
 - b. Contractors to participate in programs.
 - c. Limit demolition to 30% CDBG award.
 - d. Section 3 requirements for Contractors and Consultants.
 - e. Mayoral campaign – July 18, 2018 until Dec. 3, 2018, four months of minimal activity.
 - f. Vacancy in staffing – secretary & Inspector vacant since October.
2. Review 2018-2019 accomplishments.
 - a. CDBG Minor Rehab – Krystal processed 176 applications and awarded 30.
 - b. HOME Major Rehab – Krystal awarded 7.
 - c. CDBG Code Enforcement – Kenna processed 86 complaints.
 - d. CDBG Demolition – Kenna processed 1 demolition with CDBG funds & 10 with City general funds.
3. Discuss 2018 Neighborhood Meeting's input for preparation of Annual Plan.
 - a. Each Neighborhood Survey summary review.
 - b. Cumulative survey results for priority of programs.
4. Review proposed 2019-2020 program activities and budgets for preparation of Annual Action Plan.
 - a. CDBG Code Enforcement
 - b. CDBG Demo – limited to 30% on CDBG demo.
 - c. CDBG Minor Rehab
 - d. Legal Succession Services
 - e. HOME Major Rehab

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review pre-2019 funds to be re-allocated to next fiscal year budgets – estimated at \$600,000 and estimated accomplishments using same programs as FY2018.
2. Consider changing local HUD fiscal year to match Federal fiscal year w/ pros & cons.
3. Begin preparation for 202-2025 Five Year Consolidated Plan.
4. Begin preparation to re-designate Ten Year Map of City areas of Low Mod Income (Target Neighborhood).
5. 2019 Meeting schedule.
 - a. Rehab applications will be taken from April 2nd through April 6th from 9:am to 3:pm.
 - b. Neighborhood Community Meeting on November 7, 2019 at 6:pm.
 - c. CAC meeting to review CAPER on June 6, 2019 @ 10:am.
 - d. CAC meeting to review AAP on January 9, 2020 (or March 5, 2020) @ 10:am.

D. ADJOURNMENT

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

January 9, 2019 - 10:00 A.M.

Members Present:

G.G. Metoyer
Joyce Thompson
Amy Cheney
Devon Sanders
Sandra Augustine
Shirley Branham
Krystal Wimbley
Kenna Lavalais
Edna Woodard
Edna Pellerin

Opening Prayer: Amy Cheney

Shirley Branham: Stated, she appreciated the participation of each board member and thanked them for their dedication. Stated the purpose of this meeting is to review the 2019-2020 Proposed Annual Action Plan.

Acknowledged staff and hard work - Shared with the group there will be a replacement for Mentally Disabled. Herbie Flynn has retired and is waiting on the Mayor to confirm, the replacement.

Shirley - Fiscal year starts May 1, 2019. This year we were 3 months late. On January 3, We received funds for 2018 PY. We moved program forward.

Obstacles -

1. Severe delinquency in receiving FY 2018 funds (5 months)
2. Finding Contractors - Discussed
3. Sufficient funds to demolish. Talked about the new Contractor that has special lead training from Gonzales, Louisiana.
4. Compliance with Section 3 requirements for Contractors and Consultants - (1)- Minority and (1) Female Owned
5. Mayoral Election - Mayor Hall come in and start signing grant agreements.
6. Vacancies - This has been since October - Secretary resigned and inspector moved to another department, is still working with Community Development.

2018-2019 Accomplishments:

Shirley: Krystal processed 176 applications and awarded 30.

CDBG - 21 House - will do 9 before April

HOME Major - 2- Will do 5 before April

DEMOLITION -11 total - 10 with City General funds - Has 15 waiting on funds.

Shirley: Asked Kenna to share with the group the process.

Kenna: Stated has 25 waiting to be reviewed etc. 40 already condemned on book, and 100 complaints waiting also. There were 86 complaints from May 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018.

Neighborhood Outreach Meeting 2018 for 2019

Shirley: Our Annual Neighborhood Meeting was held November 1, 2018 at Bolton Community Center. There was a low turnout because of the terrible storm that hit our city the night before.

The ones who were there filled out the surveys and neighborhood leaders took some for persons to complete and return there to our office.

Shirley - Top Priorities were:

1. Minor Rehab
2. Major Rehab
3. Demolition
4. Code Enforcement
5. Legal Succession
6. Tenant Rental Assistance

Discussion was on this, this is a big need and has talked with the new Administration about this. Landlords do not want to fix up properties. We have done a lot of repairs. It is time to help another group of people.

Shirley - We are now under a New Administration, has shared our program with them and the New Division head for our department is Ms. Von Jennings.

Krystal - This would be like the Housing Authority, paying a portion.

Shirley - Others were Bus Transportation, this was on Hudson Blvd. Persons wrote on their surveys, could not get to the doctor, because of the bus problem. Has talked with the Bus Department Supervisor about this. Asked Kenna, how bad is the need for more buses in this area, and the needed time scheduling?

Kenna - Citizens are very upset because of the shortage of buses in the area. There are a lot of seniors and persons with no transportation who could benefit dearly from this and depends on this. There has been a shortage of workers also.

Amy - a lot of persons have talked with her about this also.

Shirley - Other rankings were Credit Counseling Repair, talked about the need for this. This was down, would like to see more up scores, so they would be able to get loans and own their own homes. We need to invest 2 years so they can get their scores up for a loan.

The ones who need these types of assistance do not come to the meetings. We cannot hear their voices if they are not speaking up. If they speak up, it might be higher (rankings). We have to ask for input that's given.

Homebuyer Assistance -

Shirley: Is hand in hand with Credit Counseling. Stated as a department is not ready to help anyone until they get their credit scores up for assistance.

Street Lighting and Road Repairs -

Shirley: There were the new ones will pass onto the City Engineers. In Neighborhood D (Lower Third) this is where most of the complaints came from about streets and lighting. Any Questions?

2019-2020 Anticipation:

Shirley - This starts May 1, 2019
CDBG - 2019 Grant - \$434,250.00
HOME - 2019 Grant Allocation Anticipation - \$236,270.00
Total - \$670,520.00

Community Development Block Grant -

Demolition/Clearance - \$104,220 - 8-12 structures. Will hold out until October on this. Discussed this.

Minor rehab Repairs and Program Delivery - \$176,070 - 20-30 Houses

Program Delivery for HOME Major Rehab - \$15,000. 2-4 Houses.
Legal Succession Services (15% of CDBG Grant Max) \$52,000
Stated that will help 5-10 families, has talked with Kenna about this further discussion were on this.

CHDO - We still do not have a CHDO- Housing Authority has reached out to some outside of the Community, but HUD stated they have to have previous records of good work within the Community.

Any questions?

New Business

Shirley - At the end of December we took all 16, 17, 18 monies, closed all activities out and moved them to new 18 Money. Further discussion was on this.

End of Budget Reallocation

Shirley - We will have a substantial budget to spend in 4 months. Further discussion was on this.

Shirley - Has told you all about the spending for the previous year. This is how we plan to spend the money for 2020.

2019-2020 Budget Estimates

Demolition - 15-23 Houses
Code Enforcement - 60-80 complaints
Minor Rehab - 68-75 Houses
Program Delivery for HOME - 15 Houses

Shirley - asked Krystal how many she put out for bids?

Krystal - 70 - further discussions were on this.

Legal Succession - 5-10 families will spend all of these funds by May 1, 2019 - 52,110

Home Major Rehab - 9 houses

Shirley - A lot of hard work, but is proud of the staff to get it done.

Any Questions?

Sandra - do you have persons for Legal Succession?

Shirley - What we will do legally is pull from the list we had first. There are 1500 adjudicated properties on the tax roll We will look at first Kenna has demolished the house etc. Further discussions were on this.

Shirley - Showed the board what we will be looking like for the next few years.

Shirley - Talked about what one of the Consultants had suggested

was to change our HUD fiscal year to match the Federal Fiscal year, but our money do not come like that.

Joyce - They do - Explained

Shirley - Currently ours is May 1, April 30. The change will be Oct 31 - Sept 30 if we do it will alleviate most of these days. Further discussions were on this.

Shirley - Will have to present the Annual Plan by March 1, and will have to do the Plan again after they announce the rewards and republish it. If we do it in 2019 will have a longer period to spend the 18-year money. Stated the consultant talked about reconciliation with our finance. It is more Pros than Cons. Further discussions were on this

2020 - 2025 Consolidated Plan

Shirley - It will take about 6 months and a lot of community input, what does the community want to see in their communities? Do you want rehab or not, what has been neglected in the last 5 years? It is a Who, What, Why, When, and Where.

Hope we can pick up new programs and help persons who has not gotten help before. Krystal, can relate to that by the applications she takes the same persons keep coming for assistance even when their 5 years are up.

Krystal - There were 40 who had never received assistance before.

Shirley - So 136 had received help before.

Joyce - This is happening in all programs.

Shirley - Most of the people who come to our meetings are elderly and homeowners, not renters. They are not interested in the rental program we can understand that. We are missing the voices of the young people in rental properties. They need to be motivated and get involved.

Shirley - Ms. Jennings,

did say maybe more social media outreach, face book, twitter t v ads, billboard etc.to get some of the other population motivated also. Further discussions were on this.

Shirley - In 2010 they had to hire a consultant to come in and identify where their incomes were less than 80% of the national average. This defines about ½ of the city. They redefined these areas every 10 years, people moves etc.

Shirley - We will be focusing on a new 10-year target neighborhood map (showed map and area) Kenna has done a lot on the census tract

for the city. It is showing 69% of the city is below Low/Mod income nation wise. The new administration is looking at this, also economic development, business growth wise, small businesses etc. to get everyone wages up. This is another big expense, costing about 60,000. The consultant will do this.
Any questions?

Mr. Metoyer - When they ride around and look at these burned structures that need to be demolished what will they think? What can we do with all of the demolitions that is needed? People are moving out of the city.

Shirley - Talked about the tax monies for persons shopping online. Further discussions were on this.
Any questions?

Sandra - How can you get the prisoners to come inside the city and clean up?

Shirley - This is done by the parish. Contact the sheriff dept. Stated, Mayor Hall has a new attitude about this wants everyone to come to the table.

Shirley - We all have a civil responsibility to help motivate someone. Is this about motivation, do we do the cleanest city contest or what? Great questions, we can put in the 5-year Plan.
Any questions?

2018 - 2019 Public Schedules

Shirley -
Accepting applications - April 8 - April 12, 2019, explain the process on first come first served.
Neighborhood Community Meeting - November 7, 2019- 6:00 P. M.
Would like for you to tell your group leaders to schedule their meeting day for this date where we can all come together.
Next Citizen Advisory meeting June 6, 2019 if HUD do not change, if so next meeting March 5, 2020. You will be notified to the change.

Shirley - Probably on our next meeting will invite Ms. Jennings.

Sandra - How will the public know what to bring for the application process?

Shirley - Krystal will you explain this?

Krystal - They will need to bring picture ID, verification of income or employment of everyone in the household (using W2or current income from Social security etc.) will not except check stubs.

Shirley - Any questions? Thanked the group for coming

Meeting Adjourned