

**Community Development Block Grant Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, July 29, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alderman Katherine Marks, Alderman Anthony Kennedy, Alderman Tod Ohnstad, Arthur Landry and Ron Frederick

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Anita Faraone and Tim Mahone

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Labahn and Anthony Geliche

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Marks at 5:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Alderman Marks said that it is necessary to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson as stated in the by-laws because of the recently appointed Committee.

A motion was made by Alderman Ohnstad to nominate Alderman Marks as Chairperson and seconded by Mr. Landry. There were no additional nominations. Alderman Marks accepted the nomination. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

A motion was made by Alderman Ohnstad to nominate Ron Frederick as Vice-Chairperson and seconded by Alderman Kennedy. There were no additional nominations. Mr. Frederick accepted the nomination. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

2. Approval of Minutes from the January 24, 2008 Meeting

Alderman Ohnstad questioned the request for funds from Bob Chinn's restaurant. Tony Geliche, Community Development Specialist, said funding came from the Lakeshore BID fund from several years ago. The funds are in a revolving account. When Lakeshore BID has a request for funds, the request must also be approved by the CDBG Committee. Bob Chinn's requested funding from Lakeshore BID but they have never come before the CDBG Committee. The Bob Chinn's project is no further along now than in January 2008.

A motion was made by Mr. Landry and seconded by Alderman Kennedy to approve the minutes of January 24, 2008 as written. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

3. 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund Allocation Plan. PUBLIC HEARING

Tony Geliche said the Committee needs to set and approve the Allocation Plan this evening. The Allocation Plan has stayed the same over the past couple of years. The Committee designates a percentage of the total funded amount, so when applications are received in specific categories we know the approximate amount of money available.

Mr. Geliche stated that the Public Service category has a statutory cap of 15% of the total funded amount. Planning and Management also has a cap of 20% of the total funded amount. The past two years the Committee has allocated 0-3% for Economic Development. This was done because we had money available in Economic Development that had not been used for several years, and we did not want to continue to add funds to the category if we did not have requests for funding. Last year we had two requests for funding approved and the category now has

approximately \$120,000 remaining in the City controlled fund. This does not include the Lakeshore BID funds.

Alderman Marks welcomed the new members, Alderman Ohnstad and Alderman Kennedy and former Alderman, Ron Frederick. Art Landry and Tim Mahone were on the Committee last year and are representatives from the Plan Commission. Anita Faraone represents the Plan Commission also and is new to the Committee.

Public hearing opened.

Alderman Marks said the public needs to limit their statements to suggesting to the Committee the areas they feel the funding should go, where the needs are, and why the funding should be allocated to a particular category.

Clarence Griffin, Kemper Center, 6800 Third Avenue, Kenosha, said that he has been working with the CDBG Committee for a number of years and thanked them for their support. The needs of Kemper Center in the future is to provide space for teaching astronomy and other educational opportunities. The goal is to make Kemper Center more functional for the community by adding educational opportunities.

Alderman Marks stated the speakers need to talk about the needs in the Community.

Wally Graffen, Boys and Girls Club, 1715 52nd Street, Kenosha, thanked the Committee for their support of the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Graffen said about 200 children have participated in their gang prevention activities because of CDBG funding. Gang prevention activities are held throughout the City and in conjunction with many agencies such as the Spanish Center. Funding for Gang Prevention programs is being slashed, so we need to continue to fund this program. The kids are the ones who loose out.

Kathryn Comstock, Women and Children's Horizons, 2525 63rd Street, Kenosha, said she agreed with Mr. Graffen that we are dealing with difficult economic times. Program closures accelerate the needs for women and children. Ms. Comstock thanked the Committee for past assistance and asked for consideration this year.

Maria Godina, Potters Center, 1642 17th Avenue, spoke in favor of Public Service funding.

Ola Baiyewu, 4207 43rd Avenue, Kenosha, said there is a need for workforce development with the boom for development on the I-94 corridor. People being released from the Department of Corrections need assistance finding jobs.

Norma Carter, Walkin' In My Shoes, 1215 80th Street, Kenosha, said the homeless are being overlooked. Problems for them are accelerating. The average citizen is only two (2) paychecks away from being homeless.

Dan Weyrauch, 4806 68th Street, Kenosha, said he is the principal at the Brass Community School. He works closely with the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance. We have seen great success in the Brass Site area. Part of the Mission for the Brass School is to become a "Light Schoolhouse" which means to be used outside of school hours. Some activities could be to become an election site, use by the Kenosha Literacy Center, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, etc. We will need to collaborate with the Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance to make this work.

Jo Wynn, Walkin' In My Shoes, 1215 80th Street, Kenosha, said Walkin' In My Shoes has been in business for three (3) years. There is a need for homeless teenagers who attend school with no where to live. They need a place to shower, bathe, and have three (3) meals a day. The number of homeless is growing and many are turned away from shelters with no where to go.

Randy Luter, CEDCO, 718 North Memorial Drive, Racine, said there is a need for Economic Development for minority businesses. They are currently working with WISDOT along the I-94 corridor to bid for money for Kenosha and Racine minority labor. CEDCO and the Urban League are also offering technical assistance and loans for business start-up.

Pastor Harris, 8042 14th Avenue, Kenosha, said the young people need a place to go and something to do. They need apprenticeship programs to provide direction. Young people who have dropped out of school need someplace to go and get trade. Pastor Harris thanked the Committee for the swimming program. Ten children learned to swim through that program. He emphasized that young people need help.

Public hearing closed.

Economic Development

Alderman Marks thanked everyone for coming out. She said the Committee will take their requests under consideration.

Tony Geliche said we have approximately \$120,000 in the Economic Development category. Last year we funded Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) \$32,000 for Technical Assistance and \$60,000 for their loan program. We also funded Community Economic Development Corporation (CEDCO) \$40,000 for Technical Assistance.

Mr. Landry said the dollar amount in the Economic Development fund gets carried over from year to year. Those funds could be spent in other areas where there is more of a need. In past years, we have not received requests for Economic Development dollars so the money is not being used. Mr. Landry suggested dropping the percentage range to 0 - 1%

A motion was made by Mr. Landry and seconded by Mr. Frederick to set the percentage for the Economic Development category to 0 - 1%.

Mr. Frederick asked if the percentage could be amended at a later date. Alderman Marks explained the range was created so that if no proposals came in for Economic Development funds then no funds would be added to that category. If there is a proposal, then the Committee has the range to work with in determining funding. Alderman Marks said we have never amended the Allocation Plan once it is adopted. Mr. Geliche said the Allocation Plan could be amended after the application period and a funding need is determined.

Mr. Geliche explained that 3% is approximately \$30,000. If the funds were not used for Economic Development they would be transferred to the Housing and Neighborhood Improvement category. We did not fund Economic Development last year, but did fund it the year before.

Alderman Ohnstad said we will not know if we have any applicants for Economic Development until the end of September. We should go with what we did last year. It is easier if we do not have to amend the Allocation Plan.

Alderman Kennedy said he is new to this Committee and appreciates the learning experience. The Economic Development category operated well last year. It doesn't appear the economy will get any better this year, so we should stay with what works. Alderman Kennedy asked applicants to offer programs for youth employment during the summer. Alderman Marks asked if youth employment would come under the Public Services Category. Mr. Geliche confirmed that youth employment is part of the Public Service category.

Mr. Landry said he appreciated the comments on the process. He said he was concerned because of the many deserving groups who do not receive funds or have funds cut. Alderman Marks said the only other category the money can go to is the Housing and Neighborhood Improvement category. Mr. Geliche said there is money in the Economic Development Fund. Public Service can not exceed 15% of the total amount allocated. Mr. Geliche said we have not had any requests for Economic Development funds for several years. Last year we funded WWBIC and CEDCO. If we do not have any funding requests this year, the funds will go to the Housing and Neighborhood Improvement category which covers such projects as Code Enforcement, facility improvements to Kenosha Achievement Center, Urban League, Kemper Center (Historic Preservation).

Alderman Marks reiterated that either way, 0 - 1% or 0 - 3%, if there are no requests for Economic Development funds, the balance goes in the Housing and Neighborhood Improvement category.

Mr. Frederick thought that reducing the percentage by 2% might make some applicants think twice about applying for funding. Maybe we shouldn't take the 2% off.

The motion was denied (1 aye; 4 noes).

A motion was made by Alderman Ohnstad and seconded by Alderman Kennedy to set the percentage for the Economic Development category to 0 - 3%. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

Public Service

A motion was made by Alderman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Ohnstad to set the percentage for the Public Service category at 15%. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

A motion was made by Alderman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Ohnstad to set the percentage for the Planning and Management category at 20%. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

A motion was made by Alderman Kennedy and seconded by Alderman Ohnstad to set the percentage for the Housing and Neighborhood Improvement category to 62-65%. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

A motion was made by Alderman Ohnstad and seconded by Alderman Kennedy to accept the "Reduction/Increase in CDBG Funds" language as presented in the Allocation Plan per Staff recommendation. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

A motion was made by Mr. Landry and seconded by Alderman Ohnstad to accept the 2009 Allocation Plan. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

4. Calendar for 2009 CDBG Program

Mr. Geliche stated the Allocation Plan will go to the Plan Commission on August 7th and to the Finance Committee and Common Council on August 18th. The Application process will run from August 19 thru September 11, 2008. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for the week of September 22nd. The Allocation Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2008. Approval of the Allocation will be brought to the Plan Commission on November 6 and to the Finance Committee and Common Council for final approval on November 17th. The dates the CDBG Committee identifies with are highlighted in yellow.

5. Any other Business as Authorized by Law

No additional business.

6. Public Comments

Public hearing opened, no comments, public hearing closed.

7. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Landry said when WWBIC was interviewed there was discussion regarding a Kenosha representative on the Loan Board. At that time, we were told there were three local bankers. Has a Kenosha banker been added to the Loan Board? Mr. Geliche said he will follow-up on that.

Alderman Marks said in 2004 a Community Needs Study was completed. She will share it with the Committee.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Landry and seconded by Alderman Ohnstad. The motion passed unanimously (5 ayes; 0 noes).

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.