

Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development
Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Historic City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Tedra Estis, Chair; Angela Dowler-Pryor; Christina Dicken; Earle Doman; Delilah Jackson*, and Erin Gray.

Members Absent: Mary Ann Jennings, Delia Croessman and Jayne Bullard.

Staff: Brendan Griesemer, Bob Atchley, Bob Jones, David Fraley, Monica Meador, Glenda Troop, and Renee Crouch, Planning and Development; and Anita Baker Climer, City Clerk's Office. (update)

Guests: David Pryor

*Delilah Jackson arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Tedra Estis, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:03 p.m. in Council Chambers at Historic City Hall.

- **Approval of the Minutes**

Anita Baker-Climer noted minutes from the previous meeting were not available for review and approval.

- **Rules of Order**

Tedra Estis, Chair, provided a brief overview of the format and Rules of Order for this meeting. She stated public comments will be accepted, immediately following staff presentations, and each speaker is limited to five minutes.

- **HUD Annual Action Plan Recommendations**

Bob Atchley, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Department gave a brief recap of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Action Plan recommendations. He stated the Citizens Advisory Committee raised several questions at the February 27, 2018 meeting, which were forwarded to the Law Department. Mr. Atchley noted the Law Department researched those questions, and provided a response to the members of the Committee. He stated the proposed CDBG funding Council Bill will be presented to City Council for a first reading and public comment on April 9, 2018, with a final reading and City Council Vote on April 23, 2018. Mr. Atchley noted Resolution 8720, which defines the CACCD's authority, has been provided to the Committee. He stated from a legal perspective, the resolution clarifies the CACCD's role, which is to review Staff recommendations and make comments to City Council. Mr. Atchley noted funding levels are estimated until final HUD allocations are received. He stated Staff is recommending approval of \$200,000 in funding for The Kitchen's new homeless shelter facility.

Earle Doman asked if funding for The Kitchen's new homeless shelter facility is provided from another source. Bob Atchley responded in the affirmative. He stated this is being funded through the Commercial Revolving Loan program.

Angela Dowler-Pryor stated a recommendation was made and approved at the previous meeting and expressed her opinion this meeting is inappropriate. Tedra Estis, Chair, responded this meeting was called, to provide an answer to questions raised at the previous meeting, to provide clarification on the CACCD's role and authority, and to discuss additional information received from the Law Department. She stated changes to the HUD Action Plan Recommendations, approved by CACCD Committee members may have been outside their scope of authority.

Angela Dowler-Pryor expressed her opinion the recommendations expressed by members of the CACCD Committee are not being considered, and questions about specific projects are not being addressed.

Tedra Estis noted the LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home and AfterCare (LifeHouse) program does meet HUD regulations and received a high score. She stated denial of their application may be discriminatory and for this reason, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri has been invited to address the Committee.

Michelle Marsh, Director, LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home, appeared before the Committee. She stated LifeHouse is a crisis maternity home for pregnant homeless women, 18 years of age or older, who have already made pregnancy related decisions. She stated residents receive their medical care from community providers of their choice, which may include family planning education.

Ms. Marsh noted since LifeHouse does not have medical staff on site and is not a medical facility. She stated a registered nurse provides education, including smoking cessation, proper nutrition, and newborn care, to the residents, on a part-time basis. Ms. Marsh noted many of the residents have high-risk pregnancies, due to a lack of proper prenatal care, before arriving at the home.

Ms. Marsh noted there are no religious requirements for residents of LifeHouse. She stated this question is never asked of current, or potential, residents, and they are never required, or asked to attend any type of religious service, or training. Ms. Marsh noted the residents of LifeHouse have made the decision to keep their child, and LifeHouse provides the support and resources necessary to help the residents become self-sufficient and successful parents.

Earle Doman asked how referrals are received at LifeHouse. Michelle Marsh responded residents are referred from multiple community resources including One Door, churches, and hospitals. She stated LifeHouse provides transitional housing to the residents, for up to one year after delivering their infant.

Delilah Jackson asked how many residents are currently at LifeHouse. Michelle Marsh responded LifeHouse is in a former monastery, with 19 current residents in 20 residential rooms on the second floor. She stated the home features a large kitchen, community room, and garden.

Angela Dowler-Pryor asked if the program can continue if CDBG funds are not allocated. Michelle Marsh responded in the affirmative. She stated initial grant funds were provided by the City of Springfield. Ms. Marsh noted additional funds are received from donors, grants, community partners, and ongoing fundraising efforts.

Angela Dowler-Pryor asked for clarification on State and Federal funds received annually. Michelle Marsh responded LifeHouse is a maternity home, and qualifies for tax credits, annually of approximately \$280,000 to \$300,000, which is passed on to donors.

Angela Dowler-Pryor expressed her opinion federal TANF food stamp program, for feeding low-income families, is inappropriately being diverted to programs such as LifeHouse. Ms. Marsh responded LifeHouse is a maternity home, and eligible to receive these tax credits.

Erin Gray noted her concern is to ensure CDBG funds be allocated to programs with limited resources. She noted recent tax documents indicate Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, which administers the LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home and AfterCare program, has an annual revenue exceeding \$2.8 million.

Michelle Marsh noted comprehensive services, provided to LifeHouse clients includes education, job and life skills training, and mental health counseling, with no cost to the clients. She stated the annual revenue of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri funds ten programs, in addition to the LifeHouse program.

Erin Gray asked if LifeHouse's proposal will fund a portion of one case manager's salary. Michelle Marsh responded in the affirmative. She stated this is the second year LifeHouse is requesting funding for the case manager salary.

Christina Dickens expressed her opinion the LifeHouse has abundant resources, through Catholic Charities, and this project creates a conflict with a separation of church and state.

- **Public Comments**

Chairwoman Estis gave citizens the opportunity to express their views or provide comments to the Committee.

Linda Simkins addressed the Committee and expressed support for the recommendations approved by the Committee members at the February 27, 2018 meeting.

Christy Merith addressed the Committee in support for the recommendations approved by the Committee members at the February 27, 2018 meeting.

Alisha Bailey addressed the Committee and expressed support for the recommendations approved by the Committee members at the February 27, 2018 meeting.

There were no additional appearances, the public hearing was closed at 6:56 p.m.

- **Committee Discussion**

Earle Doman moved to rescind the recommendation, approved by the Committee at the February 27, 2018 CACCD meeting. Tedra Estes seconded the motion and it failed by the following vote: Ayes: Doman and Estes. Nays: Dicken, Gray, Dowler-Pryor, and Jackson. Abstain: None. Absent: Jennings, Bullard, and Croessman,

Tedra Estes noted since recommendations from the Committee are not consistent with Staff recommendations, a CACCD representative will be required to appear before City Council to discuss the Committee's approved recommendation. Angela Dowler-Pryor was selected to speak at the April 9, 2018 City Council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

The minutes of the March 27, 2018 meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development were approved at the June 26, 2018 meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development.