Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development
Wednesday, July 24, 2018
Busch Building – 2 West Conference Room
6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Delilah Jackson, Chair; Angela Dowler-Pryor, Vice Chair; Erin Gray; Earle Doman; Christina Dicken; Kate Stockton*; David Carr; and Brandy McShane

*Kate Stockton arrived at approximately 6:02 pm

Absent None

Staff Bob Atchley, Planning and Development; Tom Rykowski, Law; Brendan Griesemer, Planning and Development; Glenda Troop, Planning and Development; and Lisa Gateley, Planning and Development

Attendance Delilah Jackson, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor West Conference Room of the Busch Municipal Building. Attendance was taken.

Approval of Minutes The Committee reviewed the following draft meeting minutes:

June 26, 2018 – CACCD Meeting

Vice Chair Angela Dowler-Pryor moved to approve the minutes as presented. Earle Doman seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Delilah Jackson, Angela Dowler-Pryor, Christina Dicken, David Carr, Erin Gray, Brandy McShane, and Earle Doman. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kate Stockton.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Draft Amended CACCD Bylaws Ms. Dowler-Pryor made the motion to table the vote on the amended CACCD Bylaws and expressed concern that the direction the Bylaws are taking with the changes is further from what the CACCD is hoping to accomplish. She advised the Committee that she has discussed her concerns with Councilman Simpson and he is going to discuss the issue with the new City Manager Jason Gage.

Ms. Dowler-Pryor provided information to the Committee about the City of Little Rock and their citizen participation and expressed her opinion that more citizen participation and engagement from the committee is needed here. Other communities are taking the ground up approach and that is what needs to take place in Springfield. Ms. Dicken agreed that more involvement of neighborhoods is needed. Ms. Dowler-Pryor advised that if there is a rush to complete the Bylaws then she would move to leave them as they are. According to the Bylaws it is the role of the CACCD to provide a recommendation; however, Ms. Dowler-Pryor expressed that previously the recommendations given have not been forwarded on. Mr. Doman agreed that there is not a rush to move the Bylaws through. Ms. Dowler-Pryor mentioned the Citizen Participation Plan that was approved at the last meeting and expressed concern that what they approved is kind of offensive, but it is done.

Ms. Dicken posed the question about the CDBG funding Priorities "Is there any community involvement determining what that money is spent on?" She expressed her concern that an enormous amount of money is being spent on the priorities at the City's discretion and then the smaller amount is left up to the community to determine what to spend it on. Assistant Director Brendan Griesemer clarified that the priorities are the City Council priorities and it would take City Council to change the priorities. Ms. Dicken asked, "Is City Council having any community participation involved in establishing those priorities?" Mr. Griesemer advised that the priorities are established in the 5-year Consolidated Plan and the Public Hearings are for that each year. Additional efforts to get the information out to the community have been made this past year by sending to approximately 140 email recipients including NAC as well as advertising the information in the News-Leader along with social media and the City website. Discussion of NAC involvement and what and how information was provided to the group.

Ms. McShane requested clarification on the Priorities funding and if there is duplication of management with the Emergency Home Repairs. Mr. Griesemer provided information regarding the HELP Program and how the funding is used. Ms. Dicken expressed concern with how much community participation is involved in determining the Priorities. Ms. Dowler-Pryor commented on the Tom Watkins Park improvements that were made and advised that residents feel as though they have additional problems in the neighborhood and that their voices were not heard in the decision.

Discussion regarding funding and how the CACCD did not have any control over the funding or any public control. Ms. Dowler-Pryor expressed her concern that the CACCD did exactly what the old Bylaws say for them to do, but once they did they received pushback and now they are to be changed. Mr. Griesemer clarified that the Bylaws conflicted with what City Council had approved. Ms. Dowler-Pryor would like to include the new City Manager once he is here.

Ms. Gray requested clarification on if delaying the approval of the amended Bylaws will hinder the rest of the process with HUD. Mr. Atchley advised that the goal is to have the Bylaws in compliance with the Resolution. Other entitlement agencies have been solicited for input and staff is reviewing what they are doing. Mr. Rykowski provided information to the Bylaws and Resolution not complying as well as the comments versus recommendations. He suggested to have a meeting with the City Council to discuss the changes that the CACCD would like made. If the amended Bylaws are not passed, they do have existing Bylaws in place. Discussion about what kinds of changes the CACCD would like to see made to the scoring to bring diversity and credibility to the process with a common set of criteria.

Mr. Rykowski advised the Committee that when a motion to table is made, it is not something that is normally debated on, it needs to be either tabled or not and move on. It is best to add the discussion items to the next agenda to discuss thoroughly.

Mr. Doman called the question. Ms. McShane seconded the motion to table the vote on the amended CACCD Bylaws. Ayes: Delilah Jackson, Angela Dowler-Pryor, Christina Dicken, David Carr, Erin Gray, Brandy McShane, Kate Stockton and Earle Doman. Nays: None. Abstain: None.

Discussion and Possible vote on Draft CDBG Funds Policy

Mr. Atchley advised the group that no amendments have been made to the document, it is the same that they have seen the past few months. Mr. Carr requested clarification on the best way to communicate recommended changes.

Mr. Griesemer provided details about the Law Department drafting the document as a guide for the process.

Ms. Gray expressed concern that item 4 under Procedure needs to be amended to add CACCD scoring along with city staff, as well as updating item 5 and so on. She also sees a great difference between recommendations and comments. Discussion regarding initial thoughts of making recommendations and how it turned into providing comments.

Ms. Dowler-Pryor made a motion to not adopt the draft CDBG Discretionary Funds Procedure. Ms. Dicken seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Erin Gray, Christina Dicken, Delilah Jackson, Brandy McShane, Kate Stockton, David Carr and Angela Dowler-Pryor. Nays: Earle Doman. Abstain: None.

Ms. Gray would like to make some recommendations for adjustments and bring back in August to discuss.

Ms. Dowler-Pryor doesn't feel there is a confusion, just haven't been doing what they are supposed to do. The Resolution just needs to match the other documents.

Ms. Dicken expressed concern that Councilwoman Ferguson wants community involvement and if the CACCD can bridge the community to get involved it would be of great benefit.

Mr. Griesemer advised that the notifications sent out have increased three times of what it used to be in trying to improve the process and if the CACCD has any additional recommendations of how to get the information out there to let staff know.

Discussion of involving NAC more, as well as the publishing in the newspaper and online newspaper. Ms. Gray suggested to invite CACCD members when this is being presented to NAC. Ms. Dicken suggested that this become a NAC work group. Mr. Griesemer reminded the CACCD that there is a City Council process, so if City Council is okay with referring to NAC it could be integrated in.

Mr. Atchley is researching what some other cities do and then bringing that back to the CACCD to review and make recommendations to City Council to integrate or remove items.

Discussion of Member Availability for Tours of CDBG Funded Organizations

Mr. Atchley addressed the idea of getting the CACCD members out to all the funded agencies for this year. It would average out to about a tour a week and would include all the Discretionary Public Service projects. It would be okay if not everyone is able to attend all of them. Mr. Atchley will set up dates and times for the visits and then whomever is available to attend may. The CACCD members would prefer to visit the organizations during the busy times so that they may observe in full operation.

New Business

Mr. Atchley provided details for a special meeting scheduled for September 11, 2018 for the CAPER. The books close on August 30, 2018 and the information may not be entered prior to the closing but must be submitted to HUD by September 28, 2018. September 11, 2018 will give the CACCD an opportunity to review prior to submittal as well as give a 15-day public review and comment period during that time frame. The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm. The regular scheduled meeting on September 28, 2018 may still happen if there is additional business to discuss.

Public Comments

Linda Simpkins appeared before the Committee and requested that the CACCD look at the way membership is handled and have members from targeted neighborhoods, the public housing side and even possibly Prosper Springfield be on the CACCD. Ms. Simpkins asked if it would be possible for the CACCD to make recommendations to all CDBG funds and not just the discretionary? Mr. Griesemer advised that if City Council adopts those changes then they would be able to if the criteria is approved by City Council and it stays within HUD guidelines. Ms. Dowler-Pryor discussed having better representation with the northside neighborhoods. Ms. Dicken expressed concern that citizens do not realize that the CACCD exists and that neighborhoods needs to be reached out to. Mr. Griesemer suggested to encourage others to apply. Ms. Dowler-Pryor stated that volunteers must be valued, heard and feel like they are making a difference.

Next Meeting: August 28, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Busch Municipal Building – 2nd Floor West Conference Room

Adjournment: Chairwoman Jackson thanked everyone for their meeting attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by Lisa Gateley

Delilah Jackson, Chair

The minutes of the July 24, 2018 meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Community Development was approved at the August 28, 2018 meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Community Development.