

WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, May 15, 2014

6:30 PM @ West Central Community Center

For accuracy, members and guests, please sign in before taking a seat

Remember non-members, 3 out of 4 consecutive attended meetings qualifies you for membership.

If you have attended at least 4 meetings in the last calendar year you may be by written request, become a voting member.

For excused absences please call or e-mail: Steve Corker at 509-230-3901 or at scorker@ix.netcom.com

Welcome and Introductions

Present: Michele Bennington, Mike Brakel, Steve Corker Kelly Cruz, Ken Cruz, Mary Fryback, Judith Gilmore, Daniel Herbers, Kay Howard, Jen Hussey, Steve Kounkel, Toni Lodge, Heather Lundy, Helen Sandifur, Jo Ann Stewart, Larry Swartz, Marcia Thompson, Sarah Tosch, Kathy Reid

Excused: Joanne Austin, Bonnie McInnis, Jene Mele, Kaye Turner

Absent: Jeff Barnes, Josh Brakel, Roni Carter, Lynese Cramer, Dr. Marcus DeWood, Christopher Kupeerstein, Andrew Larson, and Jim Tweeter

Guests: Kevin Brownlee, Jack Jones, and Brian Young.

Approval of the May Agenda and the April 2014 Minutes. After two corrections, Joan Stuart as excused from April's meeting and the \$500 for furniture pick-up coming out of the \$5000, it was **moved and seconded/passed to approve the March 2014 Minutes as corrected.**

Discussion/Action RE: Nettleton Project: There is \$14,500 that has been set aside for completion of this project. If these funds are not committed by end of June these monies return to the city. A committee was formed to go after more CD funds left over from previous years. The committee met and decided there was not the time or resources to meet the deadline. Jonathan Mallahan was asked regarding how the CBDG funds would be handled if the deadline wasn't met. He is going to check with the program manager. There is a meeting tomorrow with AHDL, a landscaping design firm. Project had a series of tasks to go towards this project at a cost of around \$8000. Steve Corker asked for authorization from this group so we can go forward. Motioned that we move forward was seconded. Discussion: It was suggested that a plaque to commemorate Mr. Clancy, the produce man who assisted low income people, would be added later with our own funds or donations. One person declined voting because she didn't know enough. The watering system design and top soil requirements are a part of the preparation needed before planting can occur. AHDL will provide us with a planting plan and details, drip irrigation plan, and two neighborhood meetings for the \$8000. Planting would have to happen in the early fall and next spring. Membership motion: 13 in favor, 2 abstaining. The motion passes. Non-members participating: 3 favor, 0 opposed.

CDBG Changes for 2014 Presentation Jonathan Mallahan:

Jonathan Mallahan thanked us for making time for him. CDBG is a federal program. Dollars can be used to meet community needs to primarily low income residents. When you spend CDBG funds the city has to show HUD that it was spent on an eligible activity. It also has to meet a set national objectives set by HUD. National objectives include benefit to low and moderate income individuals, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, and meeting urgent need that there are no other funds for, i.e. emergencies. The CDBG Neighborhood program began in the 70's. It was for neighborhoods consisting of 51% low or moderate income households. The Census was used to gather this data. There were 14 neighborhoods that met this requirement. A block of funds was given directly to neighborhoods who decided on their needs. This is generally how it was up until now. The remaining funds were allocated by a city-wide citizen advisory board. The American Community Survey (ACS) has been developed since then. It is now being used to determine areas eligible for CDBG funds. There is less specificity in ACS than the Census. This data is less reliable because it is less granular. ACS surveys 1 in every 40 households. A CDBG Neighborhood Taskforce was formed and met between February and April of 2014 to recommend rules for future funding. Jonathan Mallahan will let us know when there is a blog on the city website with info regarding what the taskforce did. Steve Corker also has the minutes to those meetings for review. For current CDGB eligible neighborhoods, these changes do not impact current

projects or allocations made for the 2014 program year which ends June 30, 2015. For the 2015 CDBG program year the goal is to work with all neighborhoods to develop a new methodology. For 2016, a switch will be made to a neighborhood-based, collaborative model for determining how neighborhood CDBG funds are invested City-wide. Discussion and questions and answers followed regarding the 2016 model. Clarification was made regarding the cost of managing CDBG projects. Clarification for how projects will be decided on. It's up to the neighborhoods how they want to design this model.

Jonathan clarified the 2015 model. It is likely the amount of money our neighborhood receives will be less. There are three primary areas that neighborhoods spend dollars on: single family home rehabilitation, sidewalk repair/construction and other/CHED. Because single family home rehab was moderated by the neighborhoods, neighborhoods with CDBG direct funds had shorter wait lists than ones with say 41-50% low to moderate income; there will be a shift to citywide allocation and submission by single households, first in first out. Community Housing Economic Development (CHED) is 8% of the dollars. CA Subcommittee will create a model for allocating them. Jonathan cannot stress enough that he needs us to participate. Jonathan's office will not propose anything that reduces the budget for CDBG neighborhood projects.

New Membership and Secretary: Naomi Flaherty is recognized as a member. She is now the secretary, and no longer simply the acting secretary.

DeWood Project Plans: Requesting a \$5 million dollar HUD grant for development for a low income residential tower. There is no action required currently by our Council. At sometime this year there will be public hearings on the proposed project and Marcus DeWood will present to the neighborhood his plans.

Standing Committee Reports: Committee Reports: Treasury: amounts remain the same. CD Neighborhood: already covered. Cleanup: this Saturday there is an alley cleanup by a volunteer group. There will be a dumpster at Holmes that is securely guarded. Furniture pickup: 70-78 people called in to make pick-up appointments, some duplicates. The pickups started this morning. A list will be obtained regarding who used the dump passes and how many. People called and thanked the organizer. By next meeting there will be a list of how much was picked up and what it cost us.

New Business: none

Old Business: COP Shop: report read from Council Member Candice Mumm. The shop was closed for maintenance and personnel issues. Some volunteers violated confidentiality policies. They've been sent letters and some have been asked not to return as volunteers. The COP Shop is now open as of the 5th of May. It has limited hours. There is an open house on the 28th. All are invited. Open 10-2 three days a week. We are hoping to get more volunteers so that two more days can be covered.

Public Forum: There was a meeting of all District 3 neighborhood chairs. Modifications to the CDBG Program were brought up and explored. The meeting was very productive and the feeling was that it would be continued on a regular basis.

Kelly Cruz was disappointed by a vote that came down at Monday night's City Council Legislative Session. Three Council Members did not support the Logan neighborhood's planning report suggestions.

Fulcrum: Business Roundtable working to get convicted people hired if they have taken certain classes and passed. They polled businesses about training that may be needed. Fulcrum is definitely doing workforce training. Fulcrum is working on renovating a very useful building. It was suggested that a letter be written from West Central Neighborhood Council and from Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Council in support of this project. Motion made and seconded to write the letter: it passed without objection.

We reviewed our policy on political campaign policy. It was reconfirmed that candidates may distribute materials and may be introduced, but political speeches and other campaign activity is prohibited.

The City Council's quarterly Town Hall meeting at the West Central Community Center on June 9th. Steve Corker will make the neighborhood's presentation.

Mayor David Condon is coming to the Center May 22nd to talk about parks

A new bakery is coming to the neighborhood. More details later

Tracy Douglass, our Neighborhood Resource Officer brought crime stats of the West Central area. The stats are for the area south of Garland and west of Divison. She shared year to date stats as compared to last year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm. Respectfully Submitted, Naomi Flaherty, Secretary