

Minutes
Block Grant Working Committee Special Meeting
Wednesday, January 11, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.
Community Development Division
Aurora City Hall, Second Floor, Conference Room - 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, Illinois

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Chairman Lubshina

I. Roll Call

Mr. Lubshina introduced himself as the Committee Chair. He asked the Committee members to introduce themselves.

Block Grant Working Committee Members Present: Gerald Lubshina (Chairman), Eric Rodriguez, Linda Cole, Dan Hoffman, Warren Barton, Judy Durham, Brooke Shanley, Minal Shah

Members Absent: Blanca Rodriguez, Ken Gaul

Staff Present: Chris Ragona, Amy Munro, Marty Shanahan

II. Minutes of Meetings

A. February 4, 2022 Special Meeting

A draft of the minutes was considered

A motion to approve minutes from February 4, 2022 was made by Mr. Hoffman and seconded by Ms. Cole. The minutes were approved as prepared.

III. Old Business

A. None

IV. New Business

A. Substantial Amendment 2023-#1 to Annual Action Plans (2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022)– Recommendation for CDBG/CDBG-CV Funding Approval

B. 2023 Annual Action Plan Recommendations for CDBG/HOME Funding Approval

Mr. Ragona welcomed new committee members.

Mr. Ragona provided an overview of the City's U.S. Department of Housing and Urban annual funding sources. The City receives approximately \$1.4 million dollars of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and \$750,000 in HOME Investment Partnership funds annually from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In addition to HUD's funding allocations, Mr. Ragona also highlighted that during the City's 2023 fiscal year, the City will also administer approximately \$1 million dollars of Quality of Life Grant funding and an estimated \$100,000 in prior year CDBG coronavirus funds.

Mr. Ragona gave a brief overview of the CDBG eligible activities, discussed HUD's regulatory threshold requirements for program administration and public service activities, and he also reviewed the CDBG application process. The recommended projects will be funded via 2023 CDBG funds and prior year

CDBG/CV funds. He provided the Block Grant Working Committee with a summary of the proposed Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment (2023-#1) and 2023 Annual Action Plan recommendations. He gave a brief summary of the following funding CDBG recommendations:

2023 Proposed CDBG Project Name		2023 Request	2023 Draft Recommendations
Housing Projects			
Jennings Terrace	<i>Parking Lot Replacement and Door Upgrades</i>	\$109,310	\$100,000
Jennings Terrace	<i>HVAC and Electrical Upgrades Phase I</i>	\$400,000	\$0
Rebuilding Together Aurora	<i>Housing – Safe at Home ADA Assistance Program</i>	\$147,189	\$100,000
The Neighbor Project	<i>Safety First Program – Single Family Emergency repairs</i>	\$235,000	\$235,000
The Neighbor Project	<i>Individual Development Account (IDA) – Matched Savings Program</i>	\$30,000	\$0
Subtotal		\$921,499	\$435,000
Community Amenities (Public Facility Improvement/Infrastructure/Neighborhood Investment) Projects			
City of Aurora Engineering	<i>Neighborhood Investment Street Resurfacing</i>	\$500,000	\$500,000
Fox Valley Park District	<i>Walter Park Splash Pad and Park Upgrades</i>	\$163,750	\$163,750
City Youth Services Division	<i>Street Soccer Field</i>	\$350,000	\$0
Marie Wilkinson	<i>Food Pantry Capital Improvements</i>	\$80,000	\$0
Subtotal		\$1,093,750	\$663,750
Public Service Projects			
Hesed House	<i>Case Management for Homelessness Prevention</i>	\$50,000	\$50,000
Aurora Fire Museum	<i>Youth Education and Fire Safety</i>	\$16,500	Recommended for Quality of Life (\$7,500)
City of Aurora – Community Services	<i>Financial Empowerment Center</i>	\$100,000	\$35,000

2023 Proposed CDBG Project Name		2023 Request	2023 Draft Recommendations
Mutual Ground	<i>Domestic Violence Shelter Case and Substance Abuse Management</i>	\$50,000	\$50,000
Prairie State Legal Services	<i>Fair Housing Assistance and Eviction Legal Services</i>	\$37,030	\$35,000
Quad County Urban League	<i>Economic Empowerment Center, Workforce Development</i>	\$50,000	\$15,000
Senior Service Associates	<i>Community Connection Center Senior Assistance</i>	\$50,000	\$46,215
City Seniors and Disability Division	<i>Senior Transportation Pilot Program</i>	\$50,000	\$50,000
APS Training Academy	<i>STEAM Academy</i>	\$75,000	\$0
Lewis Simmons Foundation	<i>Building Strong Blocks Workforce Momentum Project</i>	\$50,000	Recommended for Quality of Life (\$15,000)
CASA Kane County	<i>Child Advocacy for Abused & Neglected Children</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000
NAMI KDK	<i>Mental Health Services</i>	\$20,000	Recommended for Quality of Life (\$15,000)
Subtotal		\$573,530	\$306,215
Program Administration / Contingency			
City of Aurora CDBG Program Administration	<i>City Staff Program Administration</i>	\$275,000	\$275,000
Aurora Arts Center	Section 108 Contingency	\$115,000	\$115,000
Subtotal		\$390,000	\$390,000
CDBG	<i>Neighborhood Revitalization/Projects TBD</i>	\$500,000	\$500,000
Overall Total		\$3,578,779	\$2,394,965

Mr. Ragona also provided an overview of the 2023 Annual Action Plan's HOME allocations which are based upon level funding as per the City's 2022 allocation of \$750,000. The proposed 2023 HOME allocations are based upon the following breakdown: 10% Program Administration, 15% Community Housing Development Organization Set-aside, 75% Direct Project Activities. The program administration and CHDO percentages are based upon HUD's regulatory thresholds. Mr. Ragona advised that any specific HOME activities will be presented for Substantial Amendment review/approval at a future BGWC meeting.

Discussion took place.

Mr. Ragona stated that for approval purposes, the Committee members should vote on Item A and B separately. He gave a summary of the City of Aurora's Citizen Participation Process.

Item A. Substantial Amendment 2023-#1

A motion to recommend approval to the City Council on the Substantial Amendment 2023-#1 proposed funding recommendations was made by Mr. Hoffman and seconded by Ms. Shanley. The motion was approved unanimously.

Item B. 2023 Annual Action Plan

A motion to recommend approval to the City Council on the 2023 Annual Action Plan proposed funding recommendations was made by Ms. Shanley and seconded by Ms. Durham. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Other Matters

None.

VI. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- A. Friday, January 27, 2022 1:00 PM – Public Hearing on Substantial Amendment 2023-#1 and 2023 Annual Action Plan – Aurora City Hall, 2nd Floor, Council Chambers Conference Room
Mr. Ragona advised Committee member attendance is not mandatory.

- B. Wednesday, February 1, 2022 4:00 PM – Block Grant Working Committee Regular Meeting – Aurora City Hall, 5th Floor-Conference Room B
Mr. Ragona advised the February meeting will be cancelled due to lack of agenda items. BGWC members will be notified of any changes.

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m. was made by Ms. Cole and seconded by Mr. Barton. The motion was approved unanimously.