

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



Minutes Report - Final

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

7:00 PM

10th floor Assembly Room

Community Development Commission

1. Roll Call

Staff: Joel Williams, Megan Harrington, and Laura Walley.

Guests: Larry Smith of Prairie State Legal Services; John Gonzalez of COOL; Jennifer Witherspoon, Rick Riddle, and Mark McCorley of the Lake County Jail; Jeremy Foster of Big Brothers Big Sisters; Rob Anthony of Community Partners for Affordable Housing; Kelly Rentas of HealthReach; Bob McCammon of Youth Conservation Corps; Heather Barcal of Lake County Center for Independent Living; Eve Bradshaw of ChildServ; Jeneen Smith-Underwood of the Lake County Housing Authority; Martin Jablonski of Oak Hill Supportive Living Facility; Melinda Bush of the Lake County Board; and Cynthia Alexander.

Present 12 - Commissioner Pedersen, Commissioner Hewitt, Commissioner Cunningham, Vice Chair Alexander, Commissioner Ditzig, Commissioner McCue, Commissioner Molek, Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Russell, Commissioner Swanson, Commissioner Mancino and Commissioner Lawlor

Excused 3 - Commissioner Calabresa, Chair Dietz and Commissioner Krapf

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 [11-0125](#)

Approval of Minutes - January 19, 2011

Attachments: [1.19.11 Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Hewitt, that the minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 11 - Commissioner Pedersen, Commissioner Hewitt, Commissioner Cunningham, Vice Chair Alexander, Commissioner Ditzig, Commissioner McCue, Commissioner Molek, Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Russell, Commissioner Swanson and Commissioner Lawlor

Abstain: 1 - Commissioner Mancino

3. Chair's Remarks

Vice-Chairman Alexander did not have any remarks, but she requested that Mr. Joel Williams introduce the new Community Development (CD) staff member.

Mr. Williams introduced Ms. Megan Harrington, CD's new Senior Planner for Affordable Housing. Ms. Harrington stated that she was excited to join Lake County and looked forward to working with the HOME grants and the CDC.

4. Public Comment (items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments.

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

6. New Business

6.1 [11-0126](#)

Public Hearing #2 on the 2011 Annual Action Plan

- HUD requires a 30-day comment period for the Annual Action Plan.
- The CDC has solicited comments from the public beginning with a Public Hearing on January 19 and concluding with the second Public Hearing tonight.
- All comments will be heard and included in the 2011 Annual Action Plan document.
- Attached are comments received prior to the agenda mail out.

Attachments: [Public Comment Letters - 2011 Action Plan](#)

Mr. Williams stated that the thirty-day comment period on the 2011 Annual Action Plan (Plan) began with the Public Hearing held during the January 19th CDC meeting and will conclude with tonight's Public Hearing. All public comments, which will be included within the Plan, will be considered by the CDC. Should the CDC so decide, the Plan may be amended, prior to the final vote.

Mr. Rob Anthony, of Community Partners for Affordable Housing, thanked the CDC for its continued support of all affordable housing programs within Lake County. Community Partners has won awards for its community land-trust program, which was the first such program in Illinois and remains the only land-trust program within the County. The land-trust model builds a permanent inventory of properties that remain affordable in perpetuity, not just for the initial income-qualified homeowner. Mr. Anthony said that he looks forward to working with the County on his agency's PY2011 project.

Mr. Bob McCammon, of Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), expressed his thanks for the CDC's previous support and for the efforts expended throughout the review process. Mr. McCammon had recently helped to review federal grant applications and he understood the difficulty of the decision-making process, especially with the limited funds available for all of the worthwhile projects. He had planned to comment on each of YCC's scores, but his recent grant-reviewing experience gave him pause. Mr. McCammon decided, instead, to use this platform to inform the CDC of YCC's history and of the other projects it sponsors, including its work on behalf of the Lake County Forest Preserve. Further, YCC's efforts with many of the County's troubled youth has helped participants to become productive citizens, reducing this group's recidivism rate to 3%, thereby saving the County court and detention costs. Mr. McCammon asked that the CDC consider these outcomes before making its final decision.

Mr. Larry Smith, of Prairie State Legal Services, thanked the Commission for its continued support on behalf of the County's low-income citizens, as indicated by the agency's Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funding recommendation. He said that Prairie State's staff works diligently to attain stable environments for its clients.

Ms. Eve Bradshaw, of ChildServ, which provides low-cost childcare to income-qualified families, thanked the CDC for the agency's funding recommendation for PY2011. These services allow the parents to work and/or attend educational classes to better their employment opportunities.

Ms. Heather Barcal, of Lake County Center for Independent Living (Center), expressed

her agency's appreciation for the CDC's continued support of the Center's disabled clients, who face many obstacles when seeking employment. She shared the story of a recently-disabled individual, assisted by the Center to come to terms with the life changes this disability entailed, and how they were able to help him find a job to accommodate his disability.

Mr. Mark McCorley, of the Lake County Sheriff's Office, explained the added costs that would be incurred by the County if the Re-Entry Services program did not receive PY2011 funding. He stated that the rate of recidivism would increase, at the estimated annual expense of \$35,000 for each repeat offender. The services provided by this program help to connect the participant with appropriate testing, classes, and public services and to reconnect with their families, with the goal of them becoming productive citizens. Mr. McCorley requested that the CDC reconsider and recommend that the program receive \$50,000. With the vast cost savings attributed to this program, it was questioned why the Sheriff's Department did not adequately staff the program through its budget. A discussion ensued about revenue shortages, budget reductions, and the Board's previous decision to request public service funds for additional Re-Entry Services personnel. It was suggested that the Sheriff's Department apply to the townships for grants.

Mr. Martin Jablonski, of Oak Hill Supportive Living Facility, which received a HOME funding recommendation, distributed a site plan and updated the CDC on the project's current status. He spoke of the need for supportive living facilities, which provide services to seniors who need minimal assistance, thereby reducing nursing home admissions at a substantial savings to the Medicare system. Mr. Jablonski thanked the CDC for its support, adding that attending the Public Hearings had introduced him to many of the local public service agencies, which he will contact to assist the facility's residents. In response to a question about transportation services for the residents, Mr. Jablonski stated that transportation for excursions would be provided, while rides for doctors' appointments had not yet been determined. A discussion about transportation needs ensued.

Mr. Williams stated that letters received during the thirty-day comment period had been included within the agenda packet for the Commission's consideration.

Vice-Chairman Alexander opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. and closed it at 7:50 p.m.

6.2 [11-0127](#)

Approval of the Final 2011 Annual Action Plan

- Approval of the 2011 Annual Action Plan is required prior to submission to HUD.
- Approval tonight will move the Action Plan through the County's Health & Community Services and Financial & Administrative Committees prior to final approval by the County Board on March 15.
- The Action Plan will then be turned in to HUD for the period May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012.
- Staff also seeks guidance on the response to any public comments that will be included in the final Action Plan.

- The full Action Plan is available on the web at:

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Planning/CommunityDevelopment/ActionPlan.htm>

Vice-Chairman Alexander asked for any questions or discussion about the Plan. Member Cunningham said she would not vote for the Plan unless certain agencies received funding recommendations, but did not offer an amendment. Member Lawlor requested clarification of estimated federal funding levels and also of the objective impact-score formula utilized within the Public Services review. Mr. Williams said that the estimated funding levels were based on the previous year's levels and then explained the impact-score formula. A discussion about the CDC's and Staff's efforts to continually improve the application review process ensued, with suggestions for improvement requested of those present.

A motion was made by Member Russell, seconded by Member Swanson, that the 2011 Annual Action Plan be approved and sent on to the County Board. Motion carried by roll call vote Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 11 - Commissioner Pedersen, Commissioner Hewitt, Vice Chair Alexander, Commissioner Ditzig, Commissioner McCue, Commissioner Molek, Commissioner Rose, Commissioner Russell, Commissioner Swanson, Commissioner Mancino and Commissioner Lawlor

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Cunningham

7. Staff Reports

7.1 Community Development Administrator's Report

Mr. Williams explained that the federal government has not passed a budget for the current fiscal year, operating, instead, on continuing resolutions. Once the federal budget is passed, the County will be informed of the funding levels for the projects recommended within the 2011 Action Plan. A bill recently passed in the House would reduce PY2011 national CDBG funding from \$4 billion to \$1.5 billion, but the bill is not expected to be passed by the Senate. Those in support of the CDBG program were asked to contact their members of Congress. Currently, President Obama is proposing a 7.5% CDBG budget cut for PY2012. Staff will inform the CDC of budget updates.

Mr. Williams announced that Community Development will hold an Open House of its new offices at the County's Central Permit Facility. The event will be held on Friday, April 8th, following the Committee of the Whole meeting, which is expected to end at approximately 1:00 p.m. Invitations will be sent shortly.

8. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Alexander adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.