

DRAFT MINUTES

HCDC Advisory and Recommendation Committee – Public Infrastructure

Friday, May 31, 2019
3:00 p.m.
Central Permit Facility
2nd Floor Conference Room

1.0 Roll Call

The meeting of the Housing & Community Development Commission's (HCDC) Public Infrastructure Advisory & Recommendation Committee (ARC) was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

 X Diane Hewitt (3:06)

 X Bethany Williams

 X Steve Henley

Guests: Jonathan Birch and Dustin Calliari of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Staff: Jodi Gingiss, Dominic Strezo, Eric Foote, and Laura Walley

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of January 25, 2019 minutes

Motion: To approve the January 25, 2019 minutes

Motion Made By: Steve Henley

Motion 2nd By: Bethany Williams

Motion approved, with Diane Hewitt not present

3.0 Public Comment (items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments.

4.0 Old Business

There was old business.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Discussion: Preparation for 2020 – 2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan for the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

Jodi Gingiss, Community Development Administrator, presented a brief overview of the historic use of this ARC's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and requested consideration and discussion of the potential uses of this funding for the 2020 – 2024 Consolidated Plan, especially concentrating on economic development. During the past five years, Lake County has used economic development money for microenterprise business development, which had been identified as a community need by Lake County Partners (LCP). Upon question, Commissioner Williams, who works for LCP, said that the current need is workforce transportation for low-wage workers to entry-level

manufacturing jobs, including evening shifts. Many of these jobs offer a career path leading to increased wages, skills and company-sponsored training, including college coursework. Some companies are banding together to provide this transportation, but there is inherent friction due to competition for these workers. She added that the cost of the vehicle was not a sticking point, but rather finding a driver willing to work for a short timeframe. She felt that additional study was needed to solve this problem. Commissioner Hewitt has encountered employers who do not have and cannot find employees with proper training or credentials for open positions; she feels that in-house training is a need, to help workers attain that next level toward economic security. Jodi informed the ARC of the discussion during the Public Services' ARC meeting about using a portion of its CDBG funds toward transit, particularly the provision of transportation from the Waukegan area to the Lincolnshire/ Vernon Hills pocket of manufacturing companies that lack workers. This had also included discussion of the skills gap. Commissioner Williams said that Lake County Workforce Development (LCWD) has money to help provide training and just received a family-centered employment grant to help uncover and solve other issues that might keep people from gainful employment. Commissioner Henley suggested that communities should offer incentives to employers to locate their facilities within an area of available workers and that the companies could then provide training. Commissioner Williams explained LCP's outreach efforts to provide a collaborative pipeline, with training provided by the College of Lake County, its Technology Campus and LCWD. LCP spent two years engaging more than two hundred local companies, who informed LCP that the most pressing issues they have center around talent and workforce. LCP constructed a partner-shared database which includes the collection of skills/training needs information from local employers to inform the educational providers of areas on which to concentrate their efforts or, hopefully, to contact their graduates to inform them of the employment opportunities.

Jodi thanked the ARC members for their efforts across Lake County and then steered the discussion toward investable ideas for the CDBG funds. She listed a number of the options available for these funds and asked Jonathan Birch, of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), how these funds might be used for the issues discussed so far and for those acknowledged within CMAP's On To 2050 plan. Jonathan said that CMAP's plan identifies transit and the lack of alignment between job opportunity centers and the location of housing for low-income people as areas to address. Therefore, the provision of funds for transit, for job training and economic development, and for the expansion and location of affordable housing would all fit within the principles outlined within On To 2050. One of the plan's principles is the need for inclusive growth, as not all parts of the region benefit from economic growth; positive strategies need to be put into place to ensure that everyone is able to benefit. Jodi initiated a discussion by asking the ARC members what sort of incentives would be needed to entice municipalities to locate rental housing with an affordability component within its borders. Workforce housing, with employers' involvement, was presented as an idea during the discussion. The ARC next discussed possible ways to use the CDBG funds for business development. Jodi asked the Commissioners to consider strategic central business district revitalization.

Jodi said that the Homeless Needs Gap Analysis is an important part of the five-year planning process and she asked that the Commissioners extend an open invitation to attend the June 12th HCDC meeting, as the preliminary findings of the Analysis will be discussed. She spoke about several funding needs that will be presented during the meeting and said that staff would welcome input from the community to help inform funding decisions.

6.0 Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

7.0 Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Motion Made By: Bethany Williams

Motion 2nd By: Diane Hewitt

Motion approved, with Steve Henley not present