

**City of Cleveland Heights  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
May 19, 2015**

**Executive Conference Room, Cleveland Heights City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Bendix	Donalene Poduska
David Benson	Carol Roe
Vetella Camper	Amanda Shaffer
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd	Sarah West
Douglas Dykes	George Witherspoon
Jonathan Goldman	Parker Zabell
Christine Henry	Kevin Ziegler
Marian Morton	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Melissa Bilanchi	Cory Farmer (exc.)
Allison McCallum (exc.)	Steve Titchenal (exc.)
Keba Sylla (exc.)	

STAFF PRESENT

Nancy McLaughlin  
Rick Wagner

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Amanda Shaffer called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30. Nancy McLaughlin called the roll; a quorum was present.

PRESENTATION

Rick Wagner gave an update on Housing Preservation Office activities for 2014 and the first quarter of 2015. He explained the duties of his department and briefly discussed the programs that are offered by the Housing Preservation Office through CDBG, HOME, NSP and County nuisance funds. Rick described the changes to the HOME Deferred Loan program that will allow new homeowners to borrow funds to rehab their homes. The hope is that this will assist those who purchase a home that needs major violations to be repaired. This loan would take the place of escrow for those buyers.

Rick also shared the list of houses that have been submitted to Cuyahoga County for demolition through their new program. Many of these have already been declared a nuisance by Council and bids are out so that the work can begin after June 1. Vacant

parcels that are currently owned by the City will be listed on the City's website in the near future. Those listed may be available for future development.

Members of CAC introduced themselves to Carol Roe who was attending her first meeting.

#### MINUTES

Minutes of the April 21, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Nancy McLaughlin reviewed the financial statement noting that there were no unusual expenditures. There is still no word on when our grant agreement will be available and funds released. Many of the rehab programs got underway when the weather broke in April. Nancy explained that the Cedar Lee Streetscape will not be going forward until next year due to the fact that the only bid came in well over the estimates. The project is being re-evaluated so that it can be bid in October for next year's construction season.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nancy McLaughlin shared the subcommittee assignments with CAC members. It was noted that Kevin Ziegler is not chair of the Preservation and Housing Subcommittee as shown on the sheet.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### *Review Local Goals and Objectives*

CAC considered the Goals and Objectives as shown below. A motion was made to accept the Goals and Objectives as presented. That motion was passed 15-0.

##### GOAL I.

Ensure the availability and sustainability of decent housing and a suitable living environment for all Cleveland Heights residents.

OBJECTIVE A: Preserve and maintain the housing stock and create housing opportunities especially for low- and moderate-income persons.

OBJECTIVE B: Encourage the integration of population groups within the community and promote an increase in the diversity and vitality of neighborhoods.

OBJECTIVE C: Maximize the independence of targeted population groups by providing services which expand choices.

OBJECTIVE D: Maintain safe, functional, and healthy neighborhoods by providing services which improve the physical environment, especially in low- and moderate-income areas.

OBJECTIVE E: Provide support services to youth, identifiable low- and moderate-income

persons and special population groups\* in the community.

## GOAL II.

Expand economic opportunities for persons of low- and moderate-income.

OBJECTIVE A: Alleviate physical and economic distress and create viable commercial areas through prevention of the deterioration of commercial districts.

OBJECTIVE B: Stimulate private investment to create and retain employment *and entrepreneurial* opportunities, especially for low- and moderate-income persons.

\*As of this date, HUD defined special population groups as the following: Elderly, Frail Elderly, Severe Mental Illness, Physical Disability, Developmental Disability, Alcohol/Drug Abuse, HIV/AIDS and Victims of Domestic Violence.

Nancy reviewed the CDBG application process. She will have an orientation session for all applicants who wish to attend on June 4 at 10:00 a.m. Application packets will be available that day. Applications are due back to the City by July 13 at 5:00 p.m. She encouraged CAC members to share the information with any organization that might be interested in applying.

Donalene Poduska shared with the committee an editorial from The Plain Dealer about proposed changes to Ohio's Fair Housing Laws. She would like CAC to share their concerns about this bill and others that would weaken Fair Housing laws in Ohio with City Council. Members shared her concern and it was suggested that this be discussed more thoroughly at the June meeting. Nancy McLaughlin will contact Heights Community Congress to ask that someone from their organization make a presentation. Donalene also spoke briefly about the Nine Point Plan passed by City Council in 1974. Nancy will ask that Susanna Niermann O'Neil also attend the meeting to discuss Fair Housing in Cleveland Heights and the relevance of the Nine Point Plan today.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30.

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Amanda Shaffer, Secretary