

**City of Cleveland Heights
Citizens Advisory Committee
August 11, 2015
Council Chambers, Cleveland Heights City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeffrey Bendix	Carol Roe
David Benson	Amanda Shaffer
Cory Farmer	Kéba Sylla
Jonathan Goldman	Steve Titchenal
Christine Henry	Sarah West
Allison McCallum	George Witherspoon
Marian Morton	Parker Zabell
Donalene Poduska	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vetella Camper (exc.)	Kim DeNero-Ackroyd (exc.)
Douglas Dykes (exc.)	

STAFF PRESENT

Nancy McLaughlin

GUESTS PRESENT

Rick Wagner, City of Cleveland Heights	Karen Gillooly, Family Connections
Alex Mannarino, City of Cleveland Heights	Charniece Holmes, Family Connections
Kevin Smith, Cedar Taylor Development Assn.	Kara O'Donnell, City of Cleveland Heights
Joanne Federman, Family Connections	Inv. Falisa Berry, City of Cleveland Heights
Aaron Rey, Centers for Families and Children	Ben Faller, HRRRC
Pam Bradford, Centers for Families and Children	Andre Spencer, City of Cleveland Heights
Martha Goble, Heights Community Congress	Mary Marita, Benjamin Rose Institute
Anne-Marie Connors, Benjamin Rose Institute	Pam Wetherill, HRRRC
Alex Quintana, Cedar Taylor Development	Richard Wong, City of Cleveland Heights
Rick Wagner, City of Cleveland Heights	Chris Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Allison McCallum, Chair, called Public Hearing to order. She opened the public hearing by welcoming everyone and giving a brief statement of the order of the meeting.

Allison stated that this was the first of two public hearings and that the first was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2015.

Allison stated that Cleveland Heights is an Entitlement Community receiving Community Development Block Grant funds directly from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds enable the city to develop a viable community by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and by expanding economic opportunities. She explained that a final allocation for 2016 has not yet been made by Congress, but that the City is estimating that we will receive slightly less than this year, which is about \$1.46 million. She explained that CDBG is a federal program and that all applicable regulations must be followed including an environmental review of each project that includes a Section 106 Historic Preservation Review.

Members of the audience not affiliated with an applicant agency were invited to speak regarding the CDBG program or community issues that could be addressed by a CDBG-funded activity. No comments were received.

Allison reminded each applicant to limit their prepared remarks to five minutes if they were applying for one activity and to eight minutes if they were applying for more than one activity. She stated that CAC members could ask questions after their comments. Presenters were reminded that CAC had received a copy of their written application and that a CAC Subcommittee would be contacting them after the public hearing.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Amanda Shaffer called the roll. A quorum was present.

APPLICATION HEARING FOR CDBG

Street Improvement Program - Total Request \$224,980

Alex Mannarino, Director of Public Works, reviewed the current year's activities and presented the request for FY 2016. The City is requesting funds to repave Hampshire Lane from Mayfield to Lancashire; Hampshire Road from Coventry to Hampshire Lane; Lancashire Road from Coventry to Hampshire Lane; Lancashire Road from Hampshire Lane to Euclid Heights Blvd; and Glenmont Road from Mayfield to the City Line. These streets will be resurfaced rather than chip sealed.

Waterline Replacement – Total Request \$325,000

Alex Mannarino, Director of Public Works, presented the 2016 Waterline Replacement request for a complete replacement of the six-inch water main on Coventry Road from Mayfield Road to the city border with East Cleveland. There are approximately 55 two family homes in this stretch of street. This is an area where numerous breaks have

occurred in recent years, including 19 in the past year and an half.

Economic Development – Total Request \$60,000

Kara O'Donnell, City Planner, presented the request for administrative costs for the Economic Development program. Because of anticipated rollover in the various programs, the only funding because requested is for personnel costs. If an Economic Development Director is not hired, a consultant will be hired on an interim basis.

Centers for Families & Children -Total Request \$20,000

Pam Bradford, Director of Youth Services at RapArt Center, presented Centers for Families and Children's request. The request is for the Pinpoint program which targets Cleveland Heights middle school youth who are suspended from school. Pinpoint provides a voluntary, structured situation for the students while they are away from the classroom. They work with the students to promote their ability to make positive life choices through group level counseling. Tutoring is also provided for the students. Pinpoint served 90 students last year, almost 20 more than the previous year. When surveyed 91% of parent said that they saw some level of improvement in their child's behavior after attending the program. 87% indicated that their child was not suspended for the rest of the year. Pinpoint is a voluntary program and generally the first option for students is an in-school suspension.

Family Connections – Total Request \$30,000

Karen Gillooly and Charniece Holmes presented the request for funding for Family Connections' Family-School Connection program. This program focuses on working with parents with children about to enter kindergarten to help them learn what is needed to perform well in school. This is especially important for children who may not have had a preschool experience and will find themselves behind the peers when they enter kindergarten. This program provides long term benefits as children are more likely to succeed throughout their school years. Also, Family Connections' liaisons go into the homes of kindergarten students to work with the families before and during the school year to work on their areas of need upon the recommendation of the teacher.

Community Diversion Program – Total Request \$10,000

Investigator Falisa Berry presented this Juvenile Diversion program's first request for funding. In conjunction with Juvenile Court, the program offers first time juvenile offenders a chance to participate in activities which will help them to correct self-defeating, life-changing behaviors. If the program is completed, their record is wiped clean. To date, there have been 92 referrals from the court. Forty-five have agreed to participate and 20 have graduated. There has been a zero recidivism rate. The request is for funding to cover the cost of fees for speaker(s) who come from the Cleveland

Heights community and have made an impact on a larger audience. It is hoped that their success stories will have an impact on the participants in the program.

Heights Community Congress – Total Request \$10,000

Executive Director Martha Goble presented Heights Community Congress's request for Diversity programming for 2016. HCC feels that it is important to continue ongoing efforts in the area of diversity programming. In the past several years, HCC was able to self-fund a number of diversity programs. They have been well attended by a large number of people of various ages and racial groups. HCC has partnered with the Heights Library to hold the majority of these programs. They have also partnered with the schools and will work with Home Repair Resource Center in 2015/2016. In addition, HCC is working with the Oxford Community Garden to provide courses on gardening as well as just bringing all types of people together working toward a singular goal.

Cedar Taylor Development Association – Total Request \$30,000

Kevin Smith, president of the Cedar Taylor district, and Alex Quintana, board member, presented the request for funding to implement the more of improvements suggested by the streetscape study. Planters and signage have gone up in the district and soon custom bike racks and benches will also be installed. Their fundraising efforts and membership drive were successful and they hope to continue to grow the organization. They have approximately 20 paying members at this time, with some contributing more than the \$100 suggested.

Benjamin Rose Institute – Total Request \$25,000

Mary Marita, COO, presented the request for funding to replace original windows in 24 of the Benjamin Rose's Margaret Wagner senior apartments. While day-to-day maintenance issues are covered by rent payments, a project such as this is outside of that line item. HUD does not provide any funding for these types of capital improvements.

Home Repair Resource Center - Total Request \$180,400

Housing Counselor (public service) - \$42,120

Housing Rehabilitation Programs - \$138,280

Ben Faller, Executive Director, presented the agency's 2016 requests and reviewed the organization's activities. HRRC continues its mission to keep Cleveland Heights houses in good repair. They have a good relationship with the City and work closely with Rick Wagner and HPO staff. In the 44 years of HRRC's existence, their programs have enabled more than \$14 million in repairs to Cleveland Heights homes. They continue to offer classes, resource library, tool lending program and financial assistance programs which assist low/moderate income families and seniors on very tight budgets. HRRC funds

leverage a large dollar amount of private dollars.

HRRC's Housing Counselor continues to offer a wide variety of classes. Many lenders require that people attend these sessions, including Cleveland Heights which requires it of those using our down payment assistance program. In 2015, HRRC entered into a contract with the City to take over the management of the Down Payment Assistance Program. They would like to expand the counseling program in 2016.

HRRC continues to work to create programs to meet the needs of the community. They have looked at the Senior Hot Water Tank program which began in 2014 but has had no activity. HRRC is asking CAC for approval to expand the scope of that program which will now be called the Senior Home Stability Matching Grant. It will be geared to seniors on a fixed income and will allow other repairs that affect the health and safety of the occupants of the home.

Housing Preservation Office - Total Request \$528,091

Housing Preservation - \$403,091

Code Enforcement - \$65,000

Neighborhood Relations Program (public service) - \$60,000

Rick Wagner, Housing Manager, presented his three applications for funding for fiscal year 2016. Basic activities have not changed from previous years. HPO staff continues to be responsible for implementing the Deferred Loan and No-Interest Loan programs which are funded through HOME dollars as well as the new County Demolition program. These are all in addition to the CDBG-funded programs - Exterior Paint, Violation Repair for Seniors, Short Term Deferred Loan and Nuisance Abatement. Funds are requested for operating costs for HPO as well as for the Exterior Paint, Violation Repair, Short Term Deferred Loan and Nuisance Abatement programs.

Rick is also asking for \$20,000 for a new program that will help residents to install back flow preventers or divert their downspouts in an effort to reduce the backup of storm and/or sanitary sewers in their homes.

The Code Enforcement program is now in its seventh year and continues to do the majority of inspections in low moderate areas.

The Neighborhood Relations Program request is to pay a portion of the salary for a city representative to work in low/moderate areas to work on protecting the quality of life in our neighborhoods. The program coordinator attempts to prevent issues from bubbling

up to where they become a problem to the entire block or neighborhood. He also works closely with the Police Department.

Allison McCallum stated that this was the last applicant to present their 2016 requests. The public hearing portion of the meeting was closed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nancy reminded the committee of the upcoming schedule for meetings. Subcommittee recommendations will be made at the September 1 meeting which will begin at 7:00. On September 8, at 7:30 p.m., CAC will make final recommendations. CAC will present these recommendations to City Council in late September, most probably on September 28.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Allison McCallum, Chair

Amanda Shaffer, Secretary