



Housing Advisory Board

Special Meeting Minutes

Christian Karas – Chair (absent)
Linda Starr – Vice Chair

Diana Yazzie Devine
Heather Kay
Siri Amrit Kaur Khalsa

Thomas Mace
Steve Schild (arrived late)
Jon Scott Williams (arrived late)
Vacant

Wednesday, February 1st, 2012

5:00 p.m.

Mesa City Plaza Building
Suite 170
20 E. Main Street
Mesa, Arizona, 85211-1466

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Housing Advisory Board meeting convened at 5:05 p.m. Christian Karas, Chair of the Board, made a brief introduction of members of the Board and the staff present at the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes from the December 1st, 2011 HAB Meeting

Linda Starr indicated that the word “remain” needed to be changed to “remaining” on page 3 of the minutes in reference to NSP homes in the City’s inventory. Thomas Mace made a motion to approve minutes from December 1st with the indicated change. The motion was seconded by Diana Yazzie Devine and approved by a 5-0 vote.

III. Items from Citizens Present*

There were no comments from Citizens present.

IV. Discussion Items: Public Hearing #1 (Part 1) - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY 2012/13 Proposal Review -

(Presentations were heard from nonprofit organizations and/or city departments requesting funding for the City of Mesa’s FY 2012/13 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Each agency presented for a maximum of four minutes per application, with an additional four-minute period allowed for questions from the Board.) The Board evaluated each agency’s presentation(s) using the provided rating tool. The average presentation score will be

combined with the staff evaluation of the application and a total score for each application will be derived. Staff will use these scores to make recommendations to Council through the Community and Cultural Development Committee.

- A. **Motion to Convene Public Hearing #1, Part 1.** Thomas Mace made a motion to convene Public Hearing #1. The motion was seconded by Linda Starr and approved by the Board by a 7-0 vote.
- B. **Anticipated Amount of CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds available for FY 2012/13 –** Staff reported that the following amounts were available for funding for FY 2012/13:

CDBG:	\$3,176,330
HOME:	\$943,082
ESG:	\$268,926
ESG:	<u>\$84,837</u> mid-year allocation FY 11-12
Total:	\$4,473,175

- C. **Amount of CDBG, HOME, and ESG resources anticipated to benefit income qualified persons within the City of Mesa –** The City of Mesa anticipates spending no less than 70% (\$2,223,431) of its allocated CDBG funds to benefit income qualified persons within the City of Mesa. 100% of HOME and ESG funds will benefit income qualified persons within the City of Mesa. Last year, 93.38% of CDBG funds were utilized to benefit income qualified persons within the City of Mesa.
- D. **Plans by the City of Mesa to minimize the displacement of persons from the intended uses of CDBG, HOME, and ESG –** The City of Mesa does not anticipate undertaking any projects that will result in the displacement of any persons. However, should it do so, the City will strictly adhere to the Acquisition and Relocation Policies as put forth in its Citizen Participation Plan FY 2010-14 and adopted as part of the FY 2010-14 Consolidated Plan. A copy of the policy and the Plan can be found at <http://www.mesaaz.gov/housing/PDF/MesaConsolidatedPlan.pdf>.
- E. **The following range of activities may be undertaken by the City of Mesa to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slums or blight, or meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs:**

Code Enforcement / Slum Blight Activities:

1. COM, Development & Sustainability Department, Code Enforcement Program – Requested \$620,491 for 7 FTE Code Compliance Officers to work in CDBG eligible areas.
2. COM, Housing and Revitalization Division in partnership with the Development & Sustainability Department, Demolition and Hazardous Abatement – Requested \$100,000 to provide for the removal of hazardous, unhealthy, or slum and blighted conditions from Mesa neighborhoods. Request included funds for the abatement of Lead Based Paint, removal of Asbestos, demolition of 4 single family homes, and removal of blighted properties.
3. West Mesa CDC, Community Compliance Program – Requested \$30,000 for 1 PTE Community Compliance Specialist to continue a Community Compliance program aimed at addressing issues of residential code enforcement in eligible census tracts in the WMCDC service area.

Economic Development Activities: These Economic Development projects will be presented and discussed at Public Hearing #1, Part 3 held at the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) on Tuesday, February 7th at 7:30 a.m. in the lower-level Council Chambers (57 E. 1st Street, Mesa, AZ 85201):

4. COM, Economic Development Department, *Downtown Project Manager*
5. NEDCO, *Business Development Program*
6. NEDCO, *Light Rail Business Assistance Program*
7. West Mesa CDC, *Economic Development Program*

Rehabilitation (Housing Needs) Activities:

8. Arizona Bridge to Independent Living, The Mesa Home Accessibility Program (MHAP) – Requested \$65,000 to provide accessibility modifications to 16 low-moderate income tenants with disabilities.
9. COM, Housing and Revitalization, Homeowner Rehabilitation Program – Requested \$1,086,592 to support the City's Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. Includes funding for 125 emergency/minor/ rehabilitations, 20 handicapped modifications, and 15 lead based paint abatements (160 total).
10. Habitat for Humanity of Central Arizona, Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resale Program – Requested \$315,000 for the cost of acquiring up to 3 vacant foreclosed homes in need of rehabilitation. The homes will be rehabilitated and sold to low-to-moderate income families.
11. Marc Center, Freestone Community Center Renovation – Requested \$242,000 to renovate two existing community center buildings at The Village at Oasis Park. The renovation will bring the buildings up to code and current accessibility standards, as well as add features needed to appropriately serve the people with disabilities who use the facility.

Public Facility Activities:

12. A New Leaf, East Valley Men's Center: Phase III Renovation Project – Requested \$135,000 to support EVMC's Phase III Capital Renovation Project. This third and final phase of the Capital Renovation Project will: (1) Expand and renovate the existing shower and restroom facilities; (2) Build and furnish a large, indoor laundry area and intake laundry room; (3) Add a mini kitchen/evening food preparation area to EVMC's main building; and, (4) resurface and expand the EVMC parking lot area.
13. A New Leaf, La Mesita Shelter Project – Requested \$1,505,925 for the construction of a new 16-unit energy efficient family emergency homeless shelter. The new facility will be a two-story structure (as allowed by city codes) including 10 one bedroom and 6 two bedroom apartments. The total square footage of the new shelter facility will be 15,000 square feet.
14. COM, Parks and Recreation, Drew Street Pocket Park Renovation – Requested \$144,000 to renovate and expand a pocket park on the Drew Street Canal with a relocated and enhanced playground, picnic Ramada, exercise stations, and turf. The primary beneficiaries of this project are families residing at the approximately 270 single and multi-family homes within walking distance of the park.
15. House of Refuge, Inc., Roadway Repair Project – Requested \$38,826 to repair and resurface five streets within the House of Refuge Campus. A total of one (1) mile of roadway will be patched and sealed. When housing from the former Williams Air Force Base was conveyed to House of Refuge, the roadways that connect the housing units became the responsibility of House of Refuge. The last roadway repair occurred in 2001. The roadways now have cracks and potholes and are in need of repair so that they are safe for residents.
16. Project Veterans Pride, Project Veterans Pride – Requested \$2,470,000 for the purchase of a facility at 420 West 10th Place for use as a crisis shelter, transitional housing, job development and training, and a Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC) dedicated to the rehabilitation and housing of veterans and families.

A ten-minute break was taken after the presentation of #16.

Public Service Activities:

17. COM, Neighborhood Outreach Division, *Community Engagement and Education Program* – Requested \$102,435 for 1.0 FTE Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator position to educate and engage neighborhoods, businesses, non-profit and faith-based organizations to address slum/blight issues within their neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator position would provide education and resources to residents in Mesa's CDBG Target Area and adjacent low- and moderate-income census tracts.
18. COM Housing and Revitalization Division, *FSS Supportive Services* – Requested \$30,000 to support the Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator assist program participants with direct costs to overcome obstacles to employment. This may provide gas, bus fare, or appropriate attire for job interviews, as well as fees for employment testing or certification.
19. COM Parks and Recreation Department, *Washington Activity Center* – Requested \$200,000 for the funding of 1 FTE and 4 PTE's, 2 PT Temps and program materials and supplies to operate neighborhood center and programs. Washington Activity Center programs and operations which provide opportunities and space for healthy recreation, education, community involvement, development of participant and community leadership and increasing quality of life. Approximately 300 individuals will be served over the course of one year, and the target area is the Escobedo neighborhood.
20. Community Legal Services, *The Mesa Tenants Rights Helpline* – Requested \$40,000 to allow CLS attorneys and other advocates to resolve legal problems of low-income Mesa residents regarding landlord-tenant issues. A comprehensive tenants' rights helpline provides information on lease terms, security deposits, repairs, utility shut-offs, lockouts, evictions, fair-housing and community resources.
21. Community Legal Services, *Removing Barriers to Justice for Low-Income Mesa Residents* – Requested \$45,000 to allow CLS attorneys, at no charge, to resolve the civil legal problems of low-income Mesa residents impacting their basic survival needs: personal safety; the need for safe, habitable shelter; the need for health care, and the need for government benefits designed to help in times of need.
22. East Valley Adult Resources, Inc., *Assistance for Independent Living (AIL) Program* – Requested \$22,000 to provide critical resources to frail older adults in their homes. Assistance for Independent Living (AIL) provides a wide array of services for frail and at-risk older adults, allowing them to remain in an independent environment as they age; thus delaying or eliminating premature institutionalization, unnecessary hospitalization and emergency assistance.
23. Housing Our Communities, *Homeownership Counseling, Foreclosure Prevention, and Client Intake/Referral/Outreach* – Requested \$93,890 for HOC to conduct HUD-approved Homebuyer

Education classes as well as introductory Orientation classes for those interested in purchasing in Mesa, AZ. In addition, borrowers have the opportunity to meet with a certified Housing Counselor to go over all of their housing questions, concerns, and homeownership goals.

24. Labor's Community Service Agency, Foreclosure Intervention Program – Requested \$30,000 for a foreclosure intervention program that consists of counseling, advocacy (negotiations with lenders), and arrearage assistance for low-income families that are facing a crisis associated with their mortgage payment schedule.
25. Mercy Housing Mountain Plains, Out of School Time Activities – Requested \$25,000 to provide an after-school program. Children will have access to one-on-one tutoring with volunteers from Arizona State University and Grand Canyon University. During this time, they can work on their homework, receive tutoring, participate in physical activities and eat a nutritious snack that is provided by the program.
26. Save the Family, Homeless Families Intervention Project – Requested \$35,000 to provide comprehensive services including transitional housing and professional case management to homeless families from the City of Mesa.
27. Valley of the Sun YMCA, Mesa Family YMCA / Washington Park Community Partnership – Requested \$100,000 for after-school and summer programming for 150 school age youth and children grades 1-12. Multi-faceted program to include Character Education, Homework Help, Rockwall Club, Aquatic Safety, Fitness/Wellness Education and Activities, and Junior Leadership. **The applicant did not show up for their presentation because an alternate funding source was secured.**
28. West Mesa Community Development Corporation, Community Safety/Crime Prevention Program – Requested \$10,000 to support West Mesa neighborhoods in starting and maintaining block watch programs; facilitating dialogue and education between residents, businesses and the Mesa Police Department; and advocating for improved relationships between neighbors. The Neighborhood Safety Program is implemented in close cooperation with local Crime Prevention and Community Safety professionals.
29. West Mesa Community Development Corporation, Mesa Neighborhood Academy – Requested \$20,000 to partner with The Leadership Centre at Chandler-Gilbert Community College and create 4 Mesa Neighborhood Academies for LMI neighborhoods in Mesa. The purpose is to assist targeted neighborhoods in building the internal capacity to address neighborhood quality of life and sustainability issues.

Program Administration Activity:

30. COM, CDBG Administration – Requested \$635,266 (20%) to administer the CDBG program. Includes Fair Housing activities.

- F. **Public Comment** – The general public was encouraged to actively participate in the priority setting process and could do so by providing feedback regarding the City of Mesa’s potential projects for its FY 2012/13 Annual Action Plan. Members of the general public were encouraged to provide their input at this time. Written comments could also be accepted and submitted in writing to: The City of Mesa, Housing and Community Development Department, Attn: Tammy Albright, Director, P.O. Box 1466, Mesa, AZ 85211-1466; or by email to housing.info@mesaaz.gov. No comments were received at this time.
- G. **Next Step** - Public Hearing #1, Part 2 will occur tomorrow on Thursday, February 2nd, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 170 of the Mesa City Plaza Building. The Board will hear and evaluate presentations from applications for funding for the City of Mesa’s FY 2012/13 HOME and ESG proposals. Public Hearing #1, Part 3 will occur on Tuesday, February 7th, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. in the lower-level Council Chambers. All program funding recommendations will be reviewed by the Community and Cultural Development Committee of Council immediately following the Council Study Sessions that begin at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday February 23rd and March 1st, 2012, in the lower-level Council Chambers (57 E. 1st Street, Mesa, AZ 85201). All Community and Cultural Development Committee funding recommendations will be forwarded to and reviewed by Council at the City Council Study Session on March 19th, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. in the lower-level Council Chambers (57 E. 1st Street, Mesa, AZ 85201).
- H. **Motion to Adjourn Public Hearing #1, Part 1** – A motion was made by Diana Yazzie Devine to adjourn Public Hearing #1, Part 1. The motion was seconded by Siri Amrit Kaur Khalsa and passed by a vote of 6-0 (Steve Schild had to leave early).
- V. **Action Items** – There are no action items at this time.
- VI. **Adjourn the meeting** – Tom Mace made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda Starr seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

***Members of the audience may address the Board on any item. State statute prohibits the Housing Advisory Board from discussing an item that is not on the agenda; however, the Board does listen to your concerns and has staff follow up on any questions you raise.**

Submitted by

Scott Clapp, Community Revitalization Specialist