

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF MESA
Upper Level Council Chambers
February 26, 2002-MINUTES-

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Greg Holtz, Chairperson
Mr. Michael Whiting
Mr. Michael Graham
Ms. Susan Klecka
Ms. Elaine Nelson
Dr. Carlos Vallejo

ABSENT

Teresa Cotton (Excused)
Mr. Eldon Husted (Excused)

STAFF

Ms. Debra Determan
Ms. Nichole Wamble
Ms. Kit Kelly

WELCOME

Greg Holtz opened the meeting at 5:32p.m. by taking roll and welcoming everyone. Greg noted the Mayor was to be present but had not yet arrived. Greg also noted that there was quite a citizen representation this evening and would like to request that each individual who wished to speak fill out a BLUE speaker/comment card and restrict their comments to 3 minutes.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Greg stated that MesaCAN was not on the agenda and that the board does not have discussion on non-agenda citizen comments but that there was time for a few comments limited to 3 minutes each.

Kristi Miller introduced herself and spoke out in support of the MesaCAN Neighborhood Development Services Department stating that she felt the program was complimentary to the City of Mesa Neighborhood Outreach Department

Stephanie Wright, Co-Chair of the Mesa Grande neighborhood also spoke in support of the MesaCAN Neighborhood Development Services Department. Stephanie stated that there was not a duplication of services from her point of view. She suggested that without Karen LeFrance's staff Mesa Grande would not have come as far as it has. Stephanie mentioned the various projects that MesaCAN had been involved with.

- Mesa Lutheran Hospital Campus
- Comite' de Familia de Acc'ion at the Bon Trailer Park
- Colony by the Green
- Palm Cove

Stephanie suggests that the City does not have the capacity to provide for the all the community needs in Mesa. She feels they need to have the vision and the technical assistance in order to revitalize and redevelop Northwest Mesa.

Inez Potter Lockridge from the Palm Cove development was present to discuss the help they have received from the Rosie, of MesaCAN. Ms. Lockridge believes that with Rosie help there development has become more cohesive.

Brenda J. Wicker of the Palm Cove Steering Committee stated that Rosie has been a big help to Palm Cove.

Comments from Lucy Duarte' as translated by Carlos Vallejo. Rosie has worked on many initiatives and any decrease in resources will impact the services that she has provided.

Pat Johnson attended the meeting on behalf of the Palm Cove neighborhood. Pat stated that when Palm Cove first started their revitalization there was a lot of opposition from residents. There were many code and curfew violations. Since then they have been given an award by the City of Mesa. Without the help of MesaCAN, in conjunction with the City of Mesa this would have never been possible.

A representative of Mesa Royal Mobile Home Park stated that the City of Mesa Neighborhood Outreach office, along with MesaCAN has helped to improve their Mobile Home Park. He stated that a couple of years ago there were problems because people were not organized or educated. He stated that with the help of MesaCAN they are currently working on those problems.

Greg Holtz thanked all of the citizens for their presence and their comments. He stated that recommendations would more than likely be made in the April/May timeframe. Greg again stated how important it is to hear from the citizens. Greg also stated that any written outcomes that they would like the board to review when making recommendations should be sent through the City staff.

Greg pointed out Vice Mayor Davidson and Bryan Raines, Neighborhood Services Department Manager sitting in the audience.

REVIEW FEBRUARY 12, 2001 MEETING MINUTES

Michael Whiting asked that the minutes be amended to reflect him being excused from the February 12, 2002 meeting.

Susan Klecka made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Elaine Nelson and carried.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF DON CARDON

Greg read a brief resignation letter from Don Cardon. Susan Klecka made a motion to accept the resignation with regrets. Elaine Nelson seconded the motion and it carried.

CDBG & HOME FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Kit Kelly passed out a packet of information for requests that came in for CDBG and HOME Funding. Kit noted that there were 3.5M in CDBG funds to allocate with 7.4M in requests. She also noted that there was \$941,000 in HOME funds to allocate and requests of 1.4M. Kit noted the Community Revitalization Division is in the process of putting together the final recommendations.

Kit stated that the spreadsheet in the front cover of the packet is specific to the housing applications and the back-up information would be given to the City Council for all of the applications received. Kit noted that staff makes the recommendation to the City Council but asks for input from the HHSAB before making those final recommendations. Kit went through each housing application for the CDBG program, identifying services provided and requested amounts.

Kit explained that HOME funds are specifically for the development and maintenance of affordable housing or to support organizations that have the mission of developing affordable housing. She explained that a CHDO (Community Housing Development Organizations) is a special designation under the HOME program. She then went through the applications received for HOME program.

Greg Holtz commented that he would like to make sure that when making recommendations the departments remain sensitive to the needs of the various neighborhoods. Michael Graham asked for clarification on properties that qualify for demolition. Kit explained that a property owner could come to the City and request funds to help with blight. Once the demolition had been completed the owner was free to rebuild or sell the land. Kit also announced that there will be a public hearing in front of the City Council March 18, 2002, at 5:30p.m. Final recommendations will be published in the newspaper.

Kit wanted to also announce that the City of Mesa, Community Revitalization Division would be co-sponsoring a Home Ownership Fair at Mesa Community College from 10-4. Announcements will be made via flier at various community locations and on "Radio Romantica".

Carlos Vallejo mentioned that he is putting together a list-serve for a Hispanic organization and he would like to add the Homeownership Fair to his list of correspondence.

Michael Whiting asked if this was the final time the board will have to give feedback on the housing applications. Kit stated that she would take comments prior to her making the final recommendation to the City Council.

Greg announced that he had recently attended Arizona Housing Commission meeting where Vice Mayor Davidson made some great factual comments with regard to neighborhoods and affordable housing. Vice Mayor Davidson commented that the facts came directly from Deanna Villanueva in the City's Neighborhood Outreach department.

Michael Whiting asked Kit Kelly what direction did she see herself going in making their recommendations. Kit explained that they must first determine whether or not the proposal fits the Federal and City guidelines as well as what other resource are being brought to the table. She stated that they do tend to look more favorably on programs that have a good track record and at the ability of the agency to complete the project in a timely manner. This year HUD has come out with a ruling that states that recipients that do not meet the timeliness criteria will have their funding reduced the following year. Kit stated that there was \$2.2M in requests this year, which is much more than they have to allocate. Michael Whiting made a request to have the applications ahead of time in the future so that the board may have the opportunity to review them more thoroughly.

UPDATES ON STATE BUDGET REDUCTIONS.

Debra passed out correspondence she received from DES. As mandated by the Governor, the Director of the Department of Economic Security put together a letter with budget reductions based on two budget cut scenarios: one based on not having a 5% increase in salaries and the other indicating the impact of having a 5% increase. Debra stated that either way the budget reductions would have a big impact on the non-profits and this should be taken into consideration when making funding recommendations. She stated that this year DES had a \$27M shortfall and 65% of their services are mandated. When looking at funding cuts DES will be looking at cutting back non-mandated services. Those funded programs attached to matching or leveraged federal funds will not be reduced.

DES stated the program to be looked at for reduction in funds include: general assistance; non-medical home based services for elderly, summer youth programs, emergency assistance, DV, services for homeless, hunger related services, non- title XVIII developmental disabilities at home and community based services and operating dollars for the department as well as support services for CPS.

Debra said she would keep the board abreast of what is going on at the State level. Michael Whiting asked if there were specifics from the non-profits on what those funding cuts will be relative to their organization. Debra stated staff intends to contact the non-profits to ask for details on how state budget cuts will affect them.

REVIEW HUMAN SERVICES APPLICATIONS AND APPROVE ESG FUNDS.

Nichole stated that the three applications that are up for consideration under the ESG guidelines for this year were again, PreHAB's LaMesita, PreHAB's Autumn House and MesaCAN's East Valley Men's Center. She explained that ESG is a formula funded program that uses a CDBG formula to determine the amount that will be allocated. Again this year the City has \$122,000 to allocate. Nichole explained that the program is designed to prevent homelessness and enable homeless individuals and families to move into self-sufficiency by increasing the number of emergency and transitional facilities in the community. Staff is recommending level funding of \$65,500 for EVMC, \$31,500 for Autumn House and La Mesita it was \$25,000, for a total of \$122,000. Autumn house is a DV shelter that is located in Mesa, La Mesita is an emergency transitional shelter for homeless families and EVMC is a homeless men's shelter located in Mesa.

Michael Whiting asked if staff had a listing of their recommendations for funding. Nichole explained that for this particular stream of funding these were the programs that were previously funded with out looking at any new programming. She also explained that this was completely separate from the Human Services general funds and staff does not yet have a recommendation list for Human Services funding.

Michael Graham asked for clarification on how the \$122,000 is determined. Nichole explained that a CDBG formula is used and the amount has been the same for the past 3 years.

Susan Klecka made a motion to approve the staff recommendations of \$31,500 to Autumn House, \$25,000 for La Mesita and \$65,500 for EVMC. Carlos Vallejo seconded the motion. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Nichole explained that staff was bringing this proposal before the board because CIR had not been historically funded because of a project called the Community Resource Project operated by the Mesa United Way through the Tri-City Community Services Center. The project provided services that were local to the City of Mesa and the program is now defunct. This year CIR has requested funding for their CONTACTS line (Community Network for Access in Shelters), which is a 24 Hour hotline for DV and Homeless individuals to be able to call and access shelter availability. The 24 Hour Helpline is a phone line for all types of human services. Nichole passed out a sheet showing statistics tracked by CIR relative to each city. She referred to the area that read statistics by community, which showed that Mesa had 26,342 referrals.

Elaine Nelson stated that CIR is also used as a flu-hotline and that there are a variety of community resources that are disseminated through this service.

Michael Whiting pointed out that CIR placed two applications in the 01/02 funding cycle and that Mesa has always been relatively high in terms of statistics from CIR. Michael Whiting pointed out that the CIR request is less than 4% of their total budget. Michael Graham asked how referrals to agencies such as La Mesita are made. Greg explained that there would need to be an intake from MesaCAN who would then refer them to one of

the shelters. Nichole explained that an individual could also call the referral hotline to seek our resources. She indicated that this system is quite helpful with Domestic Violence referrals.

STAFF REPORTS

Debra indicated that staff is moving fairly slowing in the funding allocation process so that they have an opportunity to look at any potential funding cuts.

Michael Whiting asked how the schedule would change over last year. Debra indicated that recommendations have to be made by April 23, 2002 to bring to the City Council. She also indicated that there might be an additional board meeting in May to finalize the recommendations if necessary..

Michael Whiting noted that there are agencies that might not be able to follow through with programming based on cuts. Greg Holtz pointed out to the board that they should all continue to refer to the funding priorities when reviewing each proposal. Debra Determan pointed out that there would be a 3% reduction in City of Mesa general fund monies. Greg pointed out that in past years the board has requested more funding but that this year it is probably best that they stay within the parameters.

Nichole Wamble asked that once the board has reviewed the applications, if they would submit to her any questions prior to the next meeting so that she may have time to solicit a response and place it on the next agenda for discussion.

NEXT MEETING:

March 26, 2002 5:30, City Council Chambers

Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Debra Determan, Human Services Coordinator