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Housing Advisory Board

Minutes

Christian Karas – Chair
Siri Amrit Kaur Khalsa- Vice Chair

Diana Yazza Devine (Absent)
Heather Kay
Thomas Mace (Absent)

David Ricks
Jon Scott Williams (Absent)
Steve Schild
Vacant

Thursday, February 3rd, 2011

6:00 p.m.

**Mesa City Council Chambers, Lower Level
57 East 1st Street
Mesa, Arizona, 85201**

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Tom LaVell was introduced as the Acting Community Revitalization Director
- Mary Berumen was introduced as the Acting Housing Services Director.

Introductions of the Board members followed the introduction of new city staff. Ray Villa, Neighborhood Services Director, and Scott Clapp, Management Assistant, were also present at the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes from the November 3rd and November 4th, 2010, Special HAB Meetings

A motion was made to approve the minutes from November 3rd, 2010, Special Meeting of the Housing Advisory Board. The motion was seconded and approved by a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from November 4th, 2010, Special Meeting of the Housing Advisory Board. The motion was seconded and approved by a 5-0 vote.

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III. Items from Citizens Present*

A representative from ABIL was there to answer questions the Board may have regarding their CDBG application. The Board had no questions at this time.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Organizational Changes in the Human Services Department, Ray Villa, Neighborhood Services Department Director

Ray Villa addressed the Board regarding some of the recent changes in the Neighborhood Services Department, particularly the Housing and Community Revitalization programs. He informed the Board that:

- Carolyn Olson had resigned as Executive Director.
- Mary Berumen is now serving as Acting Director of the Housing Authority.
- Tom LaVell is now serving as the Acting Community Revitalization Director overseeing the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs.

Various Board members expressed their thanks and gratitude at having the opportunity to work with Ms. Olson, and they wanted their best regards conveyed to her if at all possible.

B. CDBG – Status Report on the CDBG/Home/ESG funding recommendations FY Fiscal year 2011-2012

Ray Villa addressed the Board regarding the status of the CDBG/HOME/ESG funding recommendations for FY 2011-2012. The discussion included the following:

- Ray Villa thanked the Board for their contributions toward this year's CDBG/HOME/ESG Application Process. Their efforts were greatly appreciated, and they should be commended for their efforts. The Board spent a considerable amount of time training and reviewing the application materials.
- The Board recommendations were forwarded to the Community and Neighborhood Services Committee where they were made changes and directions were added. There was discussion about partnerships. And a stamp of approval was given for the recommendations.
- Due to recent changes in the structure of the City's Council Committees, the Community and Neighborhood Services Committee will now be called the Community and Cultural Committee. They are going to try to figure out how to streamline the process the next year.
- Christian Karas, Chair, made note of the commendation from Councilman Richins for all the devotion by the Board. Comments were made - thankful for the effort of the work the board had done.
- Discussion occurred regarding refining the process so there is less resistance from the Council Committee toward the Board's recommendations and scoring process by addressing feedback and making improvements.
- Mary Berumen suggested that the executive team can meet with the Council members and ask them ahead of time. She recommended scheduling a meeting with the Council next August or September.

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C. CDBG/HOME/ESG Public Hearing #2, FY 2011/2012 Annual Plan Review, Thursday March 3rd, 2011:

Scott Clapp provided the information regarding the tentatively scheduled Public Hearing #3 at the next Housing Advisory Board meeting on March 3, 2011. The hearing allows the public an opportunity to provide any comments they may have regarding the City's proposed Plan. Additional information regarding this hearing will be forthcoming.

D. Proposal Public Housing Authority for the Fiscal year 2011/2012 annual plan.

The 1998 Federal Housing Act requires all Public Housing Authorities to complete and submit an Annual Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and that the public be given the opportunity to provide comments. The purpose of the Plan is to outline the goals, objectives, and methodology the agency will use to provide assisted and affordable housing through the use of federal funds in Mesa.

- Scott Clapp discussed the proposed PHA timeline regarding the PHA Plan. A required 45 day comment period begins on Tuesday, February 8th and will conclude on March 24th with the Housing Governing Board meeting and public meeting to obtain comments regarding the housing authority's annual plan. And then they will pass a resolution to approve that plan so that we may submit that to HUD by the April 15th submission deadline. The plan does not include any changes from last year's plan, except that this year we are not required to submit the five-year plan. We will be going to the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) which is comprised of voucher program participants on February 10th so that they can provide any input or comments that they may have at that time.
- No action is required of the Housing Advisory Board at this time.
- The Housing Governing Board is made up of the City Council plus one member of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB), a housing choice voucher recipient, who has been appointed by the Mayor and Council.
- We are required to solicit comments from the general public. Housing choice voucher recipients and various non-profits agencies would be interested in the Plan.
- Ray Villa – any comments that are made will be included with the Plan and will be taken into consideration for the following year.

V. Action Items

- There were no Action Items at this time.

VI. Staff Reports and Announcements

- No conferences or meetings at this time
- Board member Khalsa requested a status update of the zoning rewrite. Ray Villa indicated that could be provided at a future meeting.
- A request for the people who present to come to meetings for better understanding of the organizations
- Discussion about the overall purpose of the Housing Advisory Board – gathering information, doing research, roll of each member, etc. The Board would like these items added for discussion on future agendas.

VII. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn. Second to the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved and respectfully submitted,

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Christian Karas, Chair

April 7, 2011