



Housing and Community Development Advisory Board

Special Meeting Minutes

Stephen Sparks – Chair
Christian Karas – Vice Chair

Kristina Ambri
Diana Yazzie Devine
Stan Hosac
Heather Kay

Siri Amrit Kaur Khalsa
Steve Schild
Linda Starr
Vacant
Vacant

Thursday, April 4th, 2013

5:30 p.m.

Mesa Main Library, Saguaro Room (2nd Floor)
64 E. First Street
Mesa, Arizona, 85201

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – This special meeting of the HCDAB convened at approximately 5:40 p.m. Board members present at the meeting were: Stephen Sparks, Christian Karas, Kristina Ambri, Stan Hosac, Heather Kay, and Siri Amrit Kaur Khalsa.

Board members absent from the meeting included: Diana Yazzie Devine, Steve Schild, and Linda Starr.

Staff present at the meeting included: Ray Thimesch, Rob Schweitzer, Deanna Grogan, Constance Bachman, and Scott Clapp.

- II. **Approval of Minutes** – There were no minutes to approve at this time.

III. **Items from Citizens Present**

Members of the audience may address the Board on any item. State statute prohibits the Housing and Community 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.

- IV. **Discussion Items: Public Hearing #2 – City of Mesa FY 2013/2014 Annual Action Plan.** This public hearing is the second in a series of two regarding the City's FY 2013/2014 Annual Action Plan (see Attachment A). The Plan contains the city's short-term goals

and strategies, including specific activities recommended for funding under the FY 2013/2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. The activities described are those that the City of Mesa plans to undertake to address priority needs, in terms of local objectives, that were identified in the City's 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan.

- A. **Motion to convene Public Hearing #2.** Stan Hosac made a motion to convene Public Hearing #2. The motion was seconded by Christian Karas and carried by a vote of 6-0.
- B. **Discussion regarding the City of Mesa's FY 2013/2014 Annual Action Plan.** There was no discussion by the Board regarding the City's FY 2013/2014 Annual Action Plan.
- C. **Public comments:** At this time, the general public is encouraged to provide any comments they may have regarding the FY 2013/2014 Annual Action Plan. Please complete a blue card in the back of the room and submit it to staff if you wish to speak. Each speaker will have approximately three minutes and must state their name, institutional affiliation (if applicable), and city of residence.

A small group of individuals attended the hearing and requested to make individual comments as follows:

Augie Gastelum, is not representing any particular organization; but he is a board member of the West Mesa Community Development Corporation as well as a number of other non-profit agencies including Mesa Sister Cities Corporation. Mr. Gastelum expressed his support of the numerous projects that have contributed to the development of west Mesa, including the downtown area, such as the light-rail project and the investment of higher education. Because there is so much investment by the City, the County, and the federal government in this area, Mr. Gastelum would like to recommend that these federal dollars be focused, as much as possible, or completely be spent along the transit corridor in support of transformative projects supported by the Mayor and Council.

For clarification, Mr. Gastelum defined the walkable distance of the transit corridor as being one-half mile in each direction of the light-rail system.

Ryan Winkle is the founder of the Mesa Urban Garden on First Avenue and also works at NEDCO. Mr. Winkle also was in favor of concentrating the use of these federal dollars along the light rail corridor, specifically between 1st

Avenue and 1st Street. It makes sense to leverage the considerable investment that is already taking place.

Brandy Lovato works at Clean Air cab where the current light-rail ends. She attended the meeting to urge the use of these funds along the light-rail corridor.

Ginger Lopez is a resident of Phoenix and part owner and vice-president of Clean Air Cab, would like funds to be focused on the light-rail corridor. A lot of that area needs lots of improvement.

Jacki Taylor is CEO of a Mesa non-profit Save the Family. On page 19 of the Plan, Ms. Taylor wanted to know if homeless families had been purposefully omitted or not. She believes that the homeless families her agency serves should also be included in this reference. Staff informed her that no purposeful omission occurred and that homeless families could be included here. On page 31 in the section entitled AP-85 Other Actions, it states “both elected officials and City staff will remain active with the Continuum of Care.” Ms. Taylor is a member of the Continuum and would like encourage the City’s elected officials to become more “active” than they have been in this area and actually sitting on this committee.

Jennifer Duff, a downtown Mesa resident and small business owner, would like to encourage that these HUD funds be allocated along the transit corridor to revitalize the downtown and fuel economic development in this area.

David Crummey, a downtown Mesa resident, Board member of the West Mesa Community Development Corporation, employee of the Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley, member of a group of downtown merchants that are advocating for building community along the light-rail corridor, and an ASU Master’s student in Planning. His professional project is on housing and development along the light-rail corridor, especially in Mesa. His own research has shown that the only things that really change the Community is the intense looking at single areas, and block by block, redevelopment and thoughts about how to address and how to use the limited funds we have. In using those limited funds in order to funnel the thought processes and to bring the whole community to look at a single area and say “How do we move forward?” “How do we improve?” And, “how do we make our community better?” When funds are diluted throughout the full city, I guess everyone is deserving, and we need to make sure that we do that. But, if we intensify the way that we look at our funding, especially the limited amounts we get from HUD, especially when it comes to HOME and CDBG, we can fix

problems by intensely looking at those issues and by having the City staff, council, and board members looking at specific areas. The areas that are being looked at now are currently being redeveloped for the light-rail corridor. The area ¼ to ½ mile away from our stations are places we can look at immediately and invest or look at alternatives to ways that we can use funds from the federal government to continually leverage the other investments in that area.

There were some brief discussion regarding the general process of citizen and its relation to the Annual Plan that in turn supports the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The residents in attendance were encouraged to participate in the formulation of the City's next Consolidated Plan.

Written comments regarding the FY 2013/2014 Annual Action Plan may also be submitted during the 30-Day Public Comment Period that began on Monday, March 11th, 2013 and concludes at the end of business on Thursday, April 11th, 2013. All written comments should be submitted by mail to: The City of Mesa, Housing and Community Development Division, Attn: Rob Schweitzer, Community Revitalization Coordinator, P.O. Box 1466, Mesa, AZ 85211-1466; or, by e-mail to rob.schweitzer@mesaaz.gov. All written comments must be received no later than the end of business on April 11th, 2013 to be considered.

All comments received by the City will be included in the final version of the Plan submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- D. Approval and Submission of Plan:** Approval of the proposed FY 2013/2014 Annual Action Plan is tentatively scheduled on May 6th, 2013 at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting at 5:45 p.m. in the Upper-Level Council Chambers (57 E. First Street, Mesa, AZ 85201). The submission deadline to HUD is May 15th, 2013.
- E. Motion to close Public Hearing #2 regarding the City of Mesa's FY 2013/2014 Annual Action Plan.** Christian Karas made a motion to close Public Hearing #2. The motion was seconded by Heather Kay and carried by a vote of 6-0.

V. Action Items:

- A. Discuss and take action on a motion recommending that Council adopt the FY 2013/2014 Annual Action Plan as submitted.** Heather Kay made a motion to approve the Annual Plan. The motion was seconded by Christian Karas, and the motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

B. Discuss and take action on a HOME Application Summary Rating Sheet (Attachment B) to be utilized by the Board in their evaluation and funding recommendations for all future HOME applications. Mr. Sparks indicated that there was some good discussion at the last meeting regarding this topic, and the Board was working toward developing an objective evaluation tool for their HOME program evaluations.

Staff indicated a need for the Board to further refine the definitions of each rating category as the information on the current rating sheet is a carryover from the prior form utilized by staff to rate the projects.

Ray Thimesch indicated there are a number of applications for this year's state tax credit program, and it was his intention to summarize the applications based on the broad topics included in the rating tool.

The Board debated how to reformat the rating tool and best capture their intentions during the evaluation process.

Ms. Kay preferred the checklist idea.

At approximately 6:40 p.m., Board member Khalsa left the meeting and indicated she would defer her preference to the rest of the Board.

Mr. Sparks indicated that he recalled that Ms. Devine was going to work on a definition for each of the sub-categories. Because this tool is still a work in progress, no action was taken on this item.

For the next meeting, Ray Thimesch agreed to make an evaluation of each HOME application using these categories and provide the Board with a summary of each application.

Board member Hosac inquired if the city could fund up to 5 million dollars in HOME applications. Ray indicated that the city does not receive that much money for HOME, and the city is limited to its annual allocation.

Chairman Sparks wanted to see a copy of the revised rating tool prior to reviewing the applications at the next meeting. It was decided that the Board would meet next on April 24, 2013 at a yet-to-be determined location.

VI. Staff Reports and Announcements

A. Department Update – Status Report. A copy of the thisismymesa.org has been included in the packet.

Sequestration impacts could be 5% or 10%; but, the actual impact is yet-to-be determined.

DRAFT

Chairperson Sparks has met with Councilman Richins and the city's PIO, Steven Wright, to discuss utilizing the water as a tool to gain corporate sponsorship for matching funds for the ABC program. Chairman Sparks is forming a separate advocacy committee to lobby for these efforts.

- VII. Adjourn the meeting** – Ms. Kay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ambri and carried by a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Submitted by,

Scott Clapp, Community Revitalization Specialist

Date