

**OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES ADVISORY GROUP
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
CONSOLIDATED PLAN KICK-OFF MEETING**

February 15, 2005

Members Present:

Bill Culp
Nancy Estes
Rick Richardson
Bob Gomez
David Hall

Members Absent:

Andrew Penns
Linda Carleton

Staff Present:

Sandy Bowen, Planning
Erica Bates, Planning
Larry Gilley, City Manager
Jon James, Planning

Guests Present:

Bill Brock, Solid Waste
Jan Brokaw, NMC
April Miles, NMC
Lisa Hollingsworth, NMC
Allan Mooney, NMC
Eddie McFadden, NMC
Raquel Garza, AR-N

The meeting was called to order by Rick Richardson, Chair.

Sandy Bowen thanked everyone for their attendance and introduced City Manager, Larry Gilley. Mr. Gilley welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the purpose of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan & Strategy and the projects and services made possible through the receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds.

Mr. Gilley charged the Advisory Council with the task of receiving input from four Consultative Workgroup meetings and three Neighborhood meetings and formulating the goals and objectives which will direct spending the CDBG and HOME allocation funds for the next five years. Upon completion, the Advisory Council will present the recommendations for City Council Approval.

The film "CDBG Delivers-Celebrating 30 Years of the Community Development Block Grant", was not compatible with viewing equipment. Staff presented the goals and objectives from the previous five-year plan and noted some of the accomplishments achieved under each goal.

Goal: Low-moderate income citizens will have access to safe, decent and affordable housing

Accomplishments: Habitat for Humanity, Neighborhoods in Progress, Tenant Based Rental Assistance, First-Time Homebuyer Program, Single-Family Rehab Program and Critical Repair Program.

Goal: Prevent and reduce homelessness

Accomplishments: Abilene Volunteer Weatherization – 33 houses per year; Hope Haven II – transitional housing for homeless persons, Big Country AIDS Resources; in addition to the Single-Family Rehab Program, the Critical Repair Program.

Goal: Improve the quality of programs and facilities for health, information and recreational services

Accomplishments: Youth Services (Teen Court), Senior Citizen Nutrition and Activities, Medical/Dental program and Access to Jobs (CityLink transportation).

Goal: Enhance the physical environment of Abilene.

Accomplishments: Downtown revitalization through economic development, TIF and Section 108 funds—the Wooten Hotel, the Elk’s Building, the NCCIL and the new Abilene-Taylor health facility.

Goal: Revitalize neighborhoods

Accomplishments: Assisting NIP and Habitat for Humanity building and rehabbing homes, Code Enforcement Program which works to eliminate neighborhood weed, trash and debris problems.

Goal: Economic Development Needs

Accomplishments: Most are achieved through the Economic Development Dept., the Development Corporation of Abilene, the TIF Reinvestment Zone, the Small Business Development Center and the Abilene Industrial Foundation through the use of the ½ cent sales tax. CDBG helps fund a consultant used for resource development.

A calendar of the upcoming Workgroup meetings and Neighborhood meetings was discussed. After a brief question and answer period the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Chair