
Office of Neighborhood Services
Advisory Council
July 14, 2005
Minutes

Members Present: Susan Robinson
Bob Gomez
Bill Culp
Andrew Penns
Linda Carleton

Members Absent: Nancy Estes
Rick Richardson
David Hall

Staff Present: Larry Abrigg, Office of Neighborhood Services
Sandy Bowen, Office of Neighborhood Services
Erica Bates, Office of Neighborhood Services

Guests Present: Marissa Walters

Agenda Item 1: Call the Meeting to Order by the Chair, Linda Carleton

Ms. Carleton convened the meeting at 4:10 p.m. and declared a quorum present. Ms. Carleton read the opening statement for the ONS Advisory Council.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the May 17, 2005 meeting

Staff recommended word changes to clarify the wording of the votes on Agenda Item # 2 and Agenda Item #3. The Council agreed to the new wording.

Bob Gomez moved to accept the minutes as submitted by staff at this meeting; Bill Culp seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as written.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion of the proposed 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan, proposed 2005 One-Year Action Plan, and proposed 2005 budget (no vote)

Sandy Bowen addressed the Council concerning the preparation of the Five-Year Action Plan and One-Year Action Plan. Both documents have been completed. Staff is proofing, editing and fine tuning the draft. The required public notice announcing the Proposed 2005 Program Year budget and 30-day comment period appeared in the Abilene Reporter-News on July 9th. The last required public hearing on both plans and the budget will be held on August 11th during the regular City Council meeting.

A copy of the proposed 2005 Program Year (October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005) budget was distributed to the Council and discussed at length. Staff explained the caps that affect the level of spending for administration, public services and CHDO set asides.

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the One-Year Action Plan are available in Room 206 of City Hall at 555 Walnut Street. The public has until August 10th at 5 p.m. to submit written comments.

Mr. Culp suggested that after City Council approves the plans and budget, staff and the ONS Advisory Council hold a meeting with those who attended the planning meetings to present the final plans. In that way, we would be reporting back to them the results of their input. He would like to see the budgeted projects actually linked to the objectives identified in the meetings. Mr. Culp also suggested that a map showing locations of where the dollars are being spent in Abilene be made. A map would have an impact on those who think the nicer neighborhoods are reaping all the benefits. Many people do not realize that these funds are specifically for low- to moderate-income benefit.

During the budget discussion, staff mentioned that they had received word that the project tied for LIHTC award points had been disqualified. The proposed project, The Arbors at Rose Park, is now the only project in the Abilene/Wichita Falls region and should be awarded the credits. The final award decision is scheduled to be made public on July 27th. It was consensus that the 80-unit affordable senior independent living community will be a huge benefit to Abilene.

Agenda Item 4: Update and discussion on neighborhood associations and neighborhood plans (no vote)

Larry Abrigg distributed the current list of registered (with the City of Abilene) neighborhood associations and reviewed the status of each. Several associations are planning to begin work on their Super Neighborhood plans and others are in various stages of developing projects to improve their neighborhoods. Linda Carleton commented on Abilene's North Park Neighborhood Association and said it was assisting another group in their area to start an association. Andrew Penns commented on ICAN and their projects as an association. Bill Culp recommended that staff find a way to publish/advertise news, events and updates for local neighborhood associations (i.e., the City web site).

Agenda Item 5: Adjourn:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Approved: _____ Chairman
Date: _____