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Office of Neighborhood Services  
Advisory Council  
March 21, 2006  
Minutes

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Members Present: Linda Carleton  
Bob Gomez  
Bill Culp  
Brett Monroe  
Sarah Mulkey

Members Absent: Lecia Hughes  
Sherry Franklin  
Susan Robinson

Staff Present: Larry Abrigg, Planning Services Division  
Erica Bates, Office of Neighborhood Services  
Sandy Bowen, Office of Neighborhood Services  
Jon James, Director, Planning & Development Services  
LaToya Horan, Office of Neighborhood Services  
Jared Mayfield, Assistant Director, Planning & Development Services  
Abigail Combs, Office of Neighborhood Services  
Leticia Lozano, Office of Neighborhood Services  
Charla Hammond, Office of Neighborhood Services

Guests Present: Amy Kirwin, Lydia Long, Brad Carter, Vicki Anderson, Georgia Sanders, Trey Mathews, Andrew Penns, Carrie Blaschke, Lisa Hollingsworth, Chris Munn, Sarah Kleiner, B.W. Aston, Roger Huber

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

Ms. Carleton convened the meeting at 3:35 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 October 18, 2005 meeting

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**Agenda Item 3:**      Update and discussion on the timeline for FY 2006/07 CDBG & HOME applications for funding

Sandy Bowen announced that the FY 2007 application for funding requests would be available on the City web site beginning Monday, March 27, 2006. In addition to the web site, staff will mail information to all FY 2006 applicants. The announcement will be printed on the H.E.B grocery bags, as well. The deadline for submission is April 28<sup>th</sup>. A

public hearing will be held in May to receive input related to the 2006/07 One-Year Action Plan. New HUD guidelines will make the application process more competitive, as applications will be scored on a point basis. The ONS Advisory Council will be involved in the review process.

Community Development Block Grant Week will be celebrated nationally from April 17 through April 21. Erica Bates invited everyone to come by the Office of Neighborhood Services table during the April 13 Art Walk. CDBG and HOME funded projects and services will be high lighted and applications will be available for all four housing-related programs.

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

Mr. Abrigg passed out a report entitled, Notes and Update on Neighborhood Associations and Super Neighborhood Planning, March 2006. He stated in the interest of time he would not review the report, but would answer any questions at the next meeting.

**Agenda Item 5:**      Update and discussion concerning a Council of Neighborhood Associations

Amy Kirwin from San Marcos, Texas spoke to the ONS Advisory Council and assembled guests. She talked in detail concerning what they call a CONA, Council of Neighborhood Associations. She discussed the benefit of forming such an umbrella organization. She said neighborhoods and their associations could accomplish more as an associated group. In San Marcos CONA was responsible for urging the city to create a noise ordinance and hire environmental code enforcement officers. City staff involves CONA to help review the Capital Improvements Program each year. CONA usually has an opinion about zoning matters and other issues that come before the City Council. CONA assists Texas State University in an annual citywide student volunteer effort to help the less fortunate and improve the city. Started in 1975, San Marcos now has 35 neighborhood associations.

The audience had several questions. When the Q & A session ended, staff discussed the need for a future meeting of an Abilene council of neighborhood associations possibly in the next few weeks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_