
Office of Neighborhood Services
Advisory Council
March 29, 2007
Minutes

Members Present: Linda Carleton
Bob Gomez
Bill Culp
Brett Monroe
Susan Robinson

Members Absent: Kelly Cheek
Sarah Mulkey
Vanessa Roberts

Staff Present: Larry Abrigg, Planning Services Division
Erica Bates, Office of Neighborhood Services
Sandy Bowen, Office of Neighborhood Services
Ed McRoy, Assistant Director of Planning & Development Services

Guests Present: Ruth Ramirez, James Wagner, Dave Kraley, Eddie McFadden, Frances Contreras, Brad Patrick, Brian Mandel, Nancy Capra, Bill Ewe, Eric Goff, Mark Young, Mary Burns, Dee Wilson, Kris Kowatch, Tim Yandell, Scott Golding

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

Ms. Carleton convened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. and declared a quorum present. Ms. Carleton read the opening statement for the ONS Advisory Council and announced that this meeting would serve as a public hearing. The meeting was turned over to staff members Sandy Bowen and Erica Bates.

Agenda Item 2: Discussion of 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan Goals and Objectives and the CDBG and HOME criteria for eligible projects

Ms. Bowen opened the presentation with an explanation that the City's Citizen Participation Plan requires the City to receive citizen input prior to preparing the Fiscal Year 2008 CDBG and HOME budget. Ms. Bates presented the goals and objectives from the 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan.

Agenda Item 3: Public hearing to receive input on Fiscal Year 2008 discussing various topics related to housing and community development concerning CDBG- and HOME-funded services and projects

Council Chair, Linda Carleton announced the public hearing and opened the floor for questions and comments. Each speaker was asked to identify themselves.

Scott Golding, Executive Director, Presbyterian Medical Care Mission, asked: is staff is still under City Council directive that funding be awarded for capital projects and not operational expenses?

Ms. Bates responded: Yes.

Scott Golding: Based on historical data, do you know how much money will be available for outside agencies?

Ms. Bates: Not at this time. As you have heard, we have received another reduction in funding and we do not yet know what funding will be necessary for City services.

Ms. Bowen: In addition to that, applications for funding are not due until April 27th. Internal City service providers are required to complete the same application process as outside agencies, including a proposed budget for the requested funds.

Mark Young, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Clubs of Abilene stated that they utilize (contract) with CityLink for the after-school transportation of students to their facilities. This expense was \$35,000 last year and CityLink provided them with eight buses. They expect the expense to be even higher this year and they are anticipating only five buses due to old equipment. Mr. Young asked that the City support and fund in any way possible to help CityLink bear the expenses of new equipment and increased fuel costs. Transportation is an absolute necessity for the younger children who otherwise would have to cross streets of 4-lane traffic, such as Sayles Blvd.

Brad Patrick, Operations Manager, CityLink: The Company does have six new buses due to arrive in May.

Dee Wilson, Executive Director, The Noah Project, echoed the comments made by Mr. Young. The Noah Project shelter residents rely on CityLink for transportation to and from school and work. It is a necessity.

Bill Culp, member of the ONS Advisory Council, encouraged the audience to put their facts and figures together and make them known to the Advisory Council. The Council is there to be a voice for and help present the needs and wishes of the community.

Ms. Bowen encouraged the audience to watch for the notice and to come and speak to the City Council at the second public hearing presenting the 2008 CDBG and HOME budget. That meeting takes place in August.

Ms. Bowen asked if there were any further comments or questions. There were none.

Agenda Item 4. Adjourn

Ms. Carleton asked for final comments or questions. There being none, the public hearing was closed and the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Approved: _____
Chairman

Date: _____