
Office of Neighborhood Services
Advisory Council
May 16, 2007
Minutes

Members Present: Linda Carleton
Kelly Cheek
Sarah Mulkey
Vanessa Roberts
Bill Culp

Members Absent: Bob Gomez
Brett Monroe
Susan Robinson

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

Guests Present: None

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

Ms. Carleton convened the meeting at 2:05 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 1, 2007 meeting

Ms. Carleton asked for review and any changes to the meeting minutes from May 1, 2007. No objections were presented. She called for approval which was moved by Mr. Culp, seconded by Ms. Mulkey and approved by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion and possible vote on the prioritization of CDBG and HOME funded programs and services (tabled agenda item from May 1, 2007, meeting)

Ms. Carleton asked if someone would make a motion to remove Agenda Item 3 from being tabled. Ms. Mulkey made a motion to remove the item and the motion was seconded by Mr. Cheek.

Ms. Carleton turned the meeting over to ONS staff member, Ms. Bates, to begin the review of submitted applications for fiscal year 2008.

Ms. Bates discussed the growing trend in the reduction in federal funding for both the CDBG and HOME programs. The reality is that we must consider prioritizing the services, programs and projects as funds continue to diminish. Ms. Bates asked the Council to consider and reach a consensus on the following questions.

1. What is the recommended priority if a choice must be made between public services funding and program funding?
2. What is the recommended priority if a choice within public services must be made (prioritize services in order of importance)?
3. What is the recommended priority if a choice within programs must be made (prioritize programs in order of importance)?
4. If we face continued reductions, would you recommend cutting a whole program, or service or would you recommend cutting each program/service the necessary amount to continue partial funding each of them?

Ms. Bates reviewed the following 14 submitted applications for CDBG and HOME funds and answered questions about each posed by the ONS Advisory Council.

Applicant/Program	Funds Requested
1. FaithWorks of Abilene, Inc.	\$23,859
2. Adult Protective Services Partners, Inc	\$28,000
3. Abilene Volunteer Weatherization Program	\$6,400
4. Senior Citizen Nutrition Program	\$82,790
5. Abilene Teen Court	\$47,600
6. Medical/Dental Services	\$42,000
7. Access to Jobs, CityLink	\$60,000
8. Community Enhancement	\$60,000
9. Demolition of Condemned Buildings	\$192,197
10. Critical/Limited Repair Program	\$200,000
11. First Time Homebuyer Program	\$60,000
12. Homeowner Reconstruction Program	\$232,750
13. Single Family Rehab Program	\$338,000
14. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRASS)	\$60,000

There was considerable discussion among the Council. All of the programs and their applications, their needs, and their ability to attract additional funding were brought up. Their relationship with each other and how that relates to the needs in the community was discussed. As a group they reiterated their commitment to funding the Access to Jobs program and the importance of CityLink for that access. After the discussion they assigned funding priorities to the Priority Work Sheet. Ms. Carleton asked if someone would make a motion to vote on these priorities. Ms. Roberts made a motion to accept the priorities and there was a second by Mr. Culp. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Carleton then lead a discussion on recommended funding for the three non-profits. They are numbers 1, 2, and 3 above. The Council agreed that #1 should receive about \$13,000, that #2 should receive about \$12,000 and that #3 should receive about \$5,000. Ms. Carleton asked for a motion to recommend these funding levels. Ms.

Roberts made a motion to recommend the funding levels as discussed. Ms. Mulkey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Priority Work Sheet

NOTE: These are all City of Abilene services and programs. No outside projects are included in this prioritization.

1. What is the recommended priority if a choice **within public services** must be made (prioritize services in order of importance)?

Access to Jobs	<u>1</u>
Teen Court	<u>4</u>
Senior Citizens	<u>2</u>
Medical Dental	<u>3</u>

2. What is the recommended priority if a choice **within programs** must be made (prioritize programs in order of importance)?

Tenant Based Rental Assistance	<u>5</u>
Single-Family Rehab	<u>2</u>
Critical/Limited Repair (\$5K limit)	<u>1</u>
First Time Homebuyer (\$3k limit)	<u>3</u>
Homeowner Reconstruction	<u>4</u>

3. What is the recommended priority if a choice must be made between **public services** funding and **program** funding?

Public Services	<u>1</u>
City Programs	<u>2</u>

4. If we face continued reductions, would you recommend cutting a whole program, or service or would you recommend cutting each program/service the necessary amount to continue partial funding each of them?

Cut entire service or program	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
-------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------

Cut entire service

Yes

No

Reduce funding **equally**
for **all** services and programs

Yes

No

Agenda Item 4: Adjourn

Ms. Carleton asked for final comments or questions. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at about 3:50 p.m.

Approved: _____
Chairman

Date: _____