
Office of Neighborhood Services
Advisory Council
March 9, 2011
Minutes

Members Present: Kristina Campos
Linda Carleton
Kris Kowatch, Vice Chair
Susan Robinson, Chair
Rachel Slaymaker

Members Absent: Doug McIntyre
Brett Monroe
Vanessa Roberts

Staff Present: Sandy Bowen, Neighborhood Services
Kelley Messer, Legal
Mo Parker, Planning
Joana Wuest, Neighborhood Services

Guests Present: Odis Dolton
Stacy Gilley
Scott Golding
Riley Hassenmiller
Patricia Hippely
Petty Hunter
Tammy Kister
Alana Maddox
Conni Robinett
Bobby Sharpe
Michelle Stevens
Dawn Wagner

Agenda Item 1: Call the Meeting to Order by Chair, Susan Robinson

Ms. Robinson convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m., declared a quorum present and read the opening statement for the ONS Advisory Council. New members, Kristina Campos and Rachel Slaymaker were introduced. The Mayoral reappointments of Kris Kowatch, Brett Monroe and Susan Robinson were announced.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of September 7, 2010, minutes

Linda Carleton made a motion, which was seconded by Rachel Slaymaker to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion of 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan Goals and Objectives and the CDBG and HOME criteria for eligible projects

Informational handouts outlining the presentation were available for meeting participants. Ms. Bowen explained the requirements of an Entitlement City including the development of a 5-year Consolidated Plan, a One-Year Action Plan and a Consolidated Annual Performance and

Evaluation Report (CAPER). Ms. Bowen stressed the importance of public participation in the development of all stages of the 5-year process. The 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan Goals and Objectives included housing needs, homeless prevention, community development and other community development needs.

Ms. Bowen also explained City Council directives, funding guidelines and Target Neighborhood designation.

Agenda Item 4: Summary of Program Year 2009 CDBG and HOME Accomplishments

Ms. Wuest introduced the CAPER Accomplishments handout which covered programs and projects completed during Program Year 2009 (October 2009-September 30, 2010).

Agenda Item 5. Public hearing to receive input for the 2011 Action Plan discussing various topics related to housing and community development concerning CDB G- and HOME-funded services and projects (discussion only)

Ms. Robinson read the Public Hearing Statement and opened the meeting for public comments and asked that each state their name and organization for the record.

Ms. Pat Hippely, Taylor County Tea Party, stated that she had a problem with the use of federal funds to address quality of life issues like healthcare and homeowner repair. She stated that she believes funds should not be used to help support those issues. It is not the responsibility of the government and not the City's job to address the needs of others. The City should stop taking government funds to finance the needs of others. That assistance should be provided by the person's family, friends and possibly their church. Funds should be used to help the government.

Ms. Dawn Wagner, Taylor County Tea Party, stated that she has a problem with policies and regulations coming from HUD that are attached to the funding received by the City. She is against accepting funds tied to international codes that are above and beyond our national codes. She disagreed with the regulations mandating energy efficient light bulbs (health risks with breakage), the use of SMART meters, and telling people what they can and can't do on their own property and in their own homes.

Ms. Connie Robinett, Taylor County Tea Party and Abilene citizen, stated that she echoed what the two previous speakers said. She stated that she was against Entitlement programs. The City should not be building houses as it is merely a transfer of wealth.

Ms. Tammy Kister, Interim Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity, thanked those serving on the Office of Neighborhood Services Advisory Council, thanked the Council for hearing public comments and thanked the City for providing the funding assistance towards homes for those less fortunate. Habitat Abilene is a member of Habitat International which was founded by Millard Fuller in 1976. Their mission is to provide affordable housing.

Ms. Alana Maddox, Just People, Inc. expressed her appreciation to see that the public process included ex-offenders and that it was a need documented in the goals and objectives for our community. Locating housing is extremely difficult for ex-offenders and it is hard to find work with no home or place to take care of daily needs. She thanked the Council for serving.

Mr. Scott Golding, Executive Director of Presbyterian Medical Care Mission, echoed the sentiments by the two previous speakers. The funding provided to the Medical Care Mission has made it possible to accomplish capital improvements beyond their budget capacity. This makes it possible to provide improvements to the buildings used to care for the clients they serve. He applauded the service of the Council members and the contribution made to our community.

Ms. Robinson asked if there were any others wishing to speak. No one came forward. Ms. Robinson closed the public hearing.

Agenda Item 6. Adjourn

Kristina Campos made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Rachel Slaymaker. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Approved: _____ Chairman
Date: _____