

Community Development Block Grant Priority Setting Task Force
July 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Mark Adelson, Julia Sheridan, Andrew Ouellette, Don Harden, Ben Strick, Brad Hanscom, Lucas Blom, Sam Heck, Chase Hewitt, Matt Dubel, Adam Cohen

Missing: Ashish Shrestha, Grace Braley, Jim Hall

Staff: Amanda Methot, HCD Compliance Officer, Mary Davis, HCD Division Director, Kelley Walsh, HCD Program Manager

1) Introduction of meeting to zoom attendees:

2) Review and accept Minutes of CDBG Task Force from the July 13th, 2020 meeting: Motion to accept minutes from 7.13.20. No discussion on minutes. Passed unanimously

3) Review detailed work plan/ Q&A regarding work plan with staff

Staff reviewed the work plan, noting that the committee is currently behind a meeting due to scheduling conflicts. Two meetings in August are to be used for the writing of report. Staff noted that the current City Council scheduled is heavily packed already. There is flexibility to add in another meeting in early September, if needed.

Today's meeting will be focused on determining priority and high priority rankings for eligible activities, using the data provided from recent surveys. Staff reviewed data with committee. Committee members provided individual rankings ahead of this meeting, staff compiled rankings for review with the committee as a whole.

4) Priority Activities

ACTION ITEM

a) Group will discuss the ranking of activities in each need category:

Neighborhood Investment and Infrastructure:

The activity of tree planting was discussed. Members advocated for the benefits of this activity including providing shade as a personal benefit, acts a traffic deterrent, the activity is less costly, enhances the living quality of neighborhoods, increasing property values, and other benefits. Members agreed this is a beneficial activity, which should be weighed against the other needs and priorities of the city.

Members discussed activities that are important, but may have other funding sources and need to consider the greater needs of the community.

Members discussed the activity of 'senior services' in the neighborhood investment and infrastructure categories. Staff noted that activities are fluid and were designed to have cross over between priority categories.

Members discussed funding more homeless prevention programs, as a majority of the available services are designed to respond to homelessness rather than prevent.

Alternate modes of transportation was discussed, activities can include bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Members noted that bicycle needs don't jump out as high priority, however it could more important to include the activity to solicit more creative, and innovative project ideas. There is a critical need for transportation in our community.

Historic Preservation was discussed. Member noted that it allows to keep the history of buildings and community. Member noted that this activity had the least human impact, and least impactful. Historic preservation is also very costly, and would not be able to fully fund a project, there would have to be multiple other sources to cover the expense. Members noted that there is a number of other available sources to cover historic preservation that could be more appropriate to the parameters of those projects.

Staff clarified that the community survey results should be used for members to make informed decisions.

Member made proposal to move Parks and Recreation facilities from priority to high priority. Members discussed this proposal, other members voiced their support for this proposal.

Member made proposal to move Community Policing activity on the needs goals and priorities table to the bottom of the list.

Member made motion to move Parks and Recreation to high priority, and keep all other activity rankings as is. Motion seconded. No additional discussion. **Motion passed unanimously**

Member made motion to remove Historic Preservation as a priority. Motion seconded. Discussion on motion; members discussed the non-priority and high priority points distribution formula would essentially not allow these activities to receive enough points to be funded. Staff clarified by removing the activity, it would prohibit an application for this activity to be considered. **Motion 5-5 TIE VOTE; committee decided to table this motion/vote; this will need to be re-visited.** At 6:53pm it was noted that a member was missing in this motion vote, **the motion will passed 6-5**

Housing:

Member posed question on the activity of adaptive reuse- can/is this still being used. Staff discussed the home rehab program the city previously administered, noting the rising increases in construction made the program unfeasible. Members discussed this being a five year plan, and needing to plan ahead as much as possible.

Environmental testing and removal of toxins and heating and fuel assistance activities were discussed, noting that there are number of state and other federal resources available for this activity. Staff clarified the current lead abatement program the City of Portland is administering. Members requested the information be communicated better to the community and included in the report, as environmental testing is important.

Members discussed rental assistance, and security deposit needs of the community.

Motion to rename rental assistance to start up assistance and move from priority to high priority, everything else stays the same. Discussion, member clarified calling the activity rental housing start up assistance. **Motion passed unanimously**

Economic Opportunity:

Members discussed the various activities. Member noted that there is a high need for employment, so job creation is not a current high need. Members noted that ESL and training programs are important to the minority community. Member noted that financial stability services are not as important, as people with a limited income are not in a position to start following a budget. Members discussed façade improvement, noting that this is not the most beneficial to the community and voted to remove it.

Members discussed job creation, noting with the impacts of the virus this could be very beneficial for the low income members of the community.

- **Motion to remove façade improvements and financial stability services from priority need.** Members discussed separating these activities. **Motion rescinded.**
- **Motion to remove facade improvements from priority ranking.** Motion seconded. No discussion. **Motion passed 7-4**
- **Motion to remove financial stability services from priority ranking.** Motion seconded. No discussion. **Motion passed 10-1**
- **Motion to move job creation from high priority to priority.** Motion seconded. No discussion. **Motion passed 6-5**
- **Motion to move microenterprise from high priority to priority.** Motion seconded. No discussion. **Motion passed 8-3**

Addressing the Needs of the Growing Homeless Population:

This category was discussed very briefly, due to time restraints this agenda item will be added to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 7:00pm

Next meeting, August 10th:

- **Score Card Presentation:**
 - a) Staff presented the score card with the changes the task force has made
 - b) Discussion regarding remaining point distribution:
- Score card point distribution to be finalized
- Start working on the Council Report