



**City of Blue Springs
903 W. Main
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015**

**CDBG ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, July 14, 2020**

A State of Emergency for Jackson County, Missouri was declared on March 12, 2020 and subsequent amendments by Jackson County Executive Order requiring residents to stay at home and limiting public gatherings to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

A meeting of the CDBG Advisory Committee of the City of Blue Springs was held in the Journagan Family Community Training Room located at 1100 SW Smith Street at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 with the following members, guests and staff in attendance:

**VOTING MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Susan Stokenbury, PC Rep.	Chris Lievsay, Council Dist. 2
Jason Ellis, Downtown Resident	Jerry Kaylor, Councilmember, Dist. 1
Keith Hannaman, Vice Chair	Susan Culpepper, Councilmember
Cindy Miller, Chairperson	Dist. 3

STAFF / OTHERS

Mike Mallon, Com. Dev.
Matt Wright, Com. Dev.
Chris Sandie, Public Works
Pam Buck, Downtown Alive
MaryAnne Metheny, Hope House

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cindy Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Miller requested action on the May 14, 2020, meeting minutes. Committee Member, Keith Hannaman made a motion to approve the minutes, a second from Committee Member Jason Ellis, and a unanimous vote, the minutes for May 14, 2020, were approved as submitted.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Miller opened the public hearing for the Annual Action Plan at 6:01 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM 2
PUBLIC HEARING / 2020-
2021 ANNUAL ACTION**

Matt Wright, Acting Assistant Director, stated that this meeting is the first hearing for the 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan. Typically, the meeting would have taken place a couple of months prior, but due to COVID-19, HUD provided extensions. The goal is to send the Annual Action Plan to HUD in October 2020.

PLAN / PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Mr. Wright explained the process and goals for the Consolidated Plan. Anything that is approved must meet the five (5) goals that is within the Consolidated Plan. The City of Blue Springs has been allocated \$268,985 for the 2020-21 program year. In addition to the 2020 allocation, there is also \$92,970.12 from pre-2019 allocations that will need to be reallocated. Therefore, staff estimates that there will be approximately \$361,955.12 to the programs for 2020-21.

Mr. Wright explained how the City has expended funds in the past. There has been almost \$2.9 million spent in CDBG funds since 2006. Most dollars have gone towards infrastructure projects and Minor Home Repair.

Mr. Wright stated that the low-moderate census blocks have remained the same as the 2019-20 program year.

Staff included a list of programs to continue in the 2020-21 program year, including the Minor Home Repair Program based on the need and past success.

QUESTIONS

Councilmember Susan Culpepper questioned what Minor Home Repair items staff is seeing a lot of. Mr. Wright stated that a lot of the applications that come in are generated from code violations. Mr. Wright stated the requests vary but siding and painting are generally most common. HVAC and water heater replacements were added a few years ago and have been successful. Mr. Wright stated that staff is looking at splitting the pot of funds, one for code violations and the other for general requests, that way there is year-round funding for code violations. There are a lot of repeat applicants, Mr. Wright is looking at ways to lessen this by prioritizing first time applicants and code violations.

First Time Home Buyers numbers have declined but there still is interest in the program.

Fieldhouse Scholarships are utilizing \$1,500 a year.

Community Administration & Planning is typically between \$5,000 - \$10,000 which covers public notices, recording liens, and any kind of paperwork that must be completed to satisfy the HUD requirements.

Other programs that funds could go towards include the Downtown Façade Grant, Blue Springs Park basketball court replacement, and the replacement of sidewalks to meet ADA requirements. Committee Member Susan Stokenbury asked about senior services. Mr. Wright stated that if there was an organization that specifically focuses on seniors who are low-income that could be an opportunity to use CDBG funds as well.

There were three (3) applications submitted for funding assistance:

- Hope House - \$12,240 for domestic violence counseling
- Community Services League - \$25,000 for subsistence payments for housing and utility assistance
- Downtown Alive - \$25,000 for program administration as part of economic development in a designated slum/blight area

Chairperson Miller stated that there are dumpsters all along Oak Street and questioned whether the CDBG funds could be used to build an enclosure to help make the area look nicer. Mr. Wright stated that he would look into that.

Committee Member Ellis questioned the clean up of the area around the railroad track behind the Police Department. Staff will look into that as well.

Councilmember Kaylor asked about the Parks Maintenance Sales Tax. Mr. Wright stated that staff looked at the CIP (Capital Improvement Program) and found that three parks were located in the designated low-income areas that were unfunded. Since it wasn't funded by the sales tax and there was a need there that was unfilled, staff looked at it for CDBG funds. Councilmember Kaylor would like to see the Sales Tax overages go towards the three parks and the CDBG funds go towards sidewalks. Mr. Wright stated that the prior two or three program years there were substantial funds provided for sidewalks and the past year there were not. Staff tries to alternate between Parks and Public Works. Councilmember Kaylor stated that he would like to see more funds towards Parks beautification of the city. Mr. Wright stated that CDBG does not allow funds to be used for maintenance, only replacements or other structural enhancements.

Committee Member Keith Hannaman stated that there is a timeline of items to be improved through the Parks Maintenance Sales Tax, and hopefully in the future items such as beautification and maintenance can be addressed.

Committee Member Susan Stokenbury stated that she would like to see more of the funds being invested in people, especially Seniors. Mr. Wright stated that senior services falls under a public service and the City is limited on how much money they can give provide to a public service. The current program of approximately \$260,000 was allocated for public services where only 15% of that can go to those services, which amounts to about \$39,000. Mr. Wright added that the majority of the Minor Home Repair Program repairs have been utilized by homeowners over the age of 60, so seniors are benefiting from CDBG funds.

Committee Member Ellis asked about helping to fund OATS. Mr. Wright stated that OATS falls under a public service as a transportation provider. The local OATS representative receives the CDBG announcements from the City but has never approached the City for funds.

Ms. MaryAnne Metheny, Hope House, thanked the Committee for the grants that they had received in the past and informed the Committee that due to the grant funds Hope House was able to provide one on one counseling to folks that need it. The specific dollar amount requested is based on the units per hour the counselor is needed.

Ms. Pam Buck, Downtown Alive, stated that she is the staff for the Downtown Alive group, it is a part time, retirement job for Ms. Buck. Ms. Buck stated that Downtown Alive is looking at downtown being an entertainment/dining district that would provide jobs.

Mr. Wright stated that CSL has been receiving about \$25,000 annually from CDBG funds which helps 200 + people a year, roughly about 70-80 households. The intent of the funds is to help people from becoming homeless through eviction, or by having their power or water shut off. Councilmember Culpepper stated that CSL is now receiving meats, veggies and dairy products which they couldn't provide before because of expiration dates and liabilities.

HEARING CLOSED

Chairperson Miller closed the public hearing at 6:37 p.m.

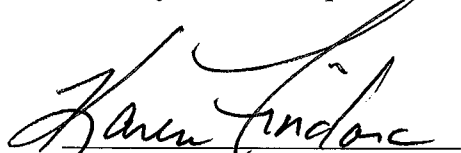
OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wright stated that staff will take all the feedback and put together different funding proposals with more detail for each. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Journagan Community Room located at 1100 SW Smith Street.


Mr. Wright provided an update on the COVID-19 funds. He stated that staff is waiting on more guidance from HUD on the Small Business Loans and will hopefully have more information soon. Mr. Wright stated that if a business doesn't qualify, then staff will help them find another resource.

MEETING ADJOURN

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Committee Member Hannaman to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Jason Ellis.



Respectfully Submitted by,
Karen Findora, Recording Secretary



Cindy Miller, Chairperson

7/14/2020

Date