

**City of Cleveland Heights
Citizens Advisory Committee
August 16, 2016
Council Chambers, Cleveland Heights City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Benson	Allison McCallum
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd	Marian Morton
Douglas Dykes	T. Nadas
Bradley Eckert	Donalene Poduska
Dawn Ellis	Amanda Shaffer
Cory Farmer	Katura Simmons
Christine Henry	Steve Titchenal
Robin Koslen	Meg Vanderbilt
Gail Larson	Sarah West
Menachem Lubling	Parker Zabell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vetella Camper	Jonathan Goldman (exc.)
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STAFF PRESENT

Nancy McLaughlin

GUESTS PRESENT

Allan Butler, City of Cleveland Heights	Karen Knittel, City of Cleveland Heights
Alex Mannarino, City of Cleveland Heights Ctr.	Bob Norton, Heights Emergency Food
Kevin Smith, Cedar Taylor Development Assn.	Roscoe Morgan, Heights Youth Club
Martha Goble, Heights Community Congress	Tim Boland, City of Cleveland Heights
Pat Joy, CH/UH Library	Amy Jenkins, City of Cleveland Heights
Angela Shuckahosee, Cleveland Tenants Org.	Ania Wheatley, CH/UH Library
Judith Mansour, Open Doors	Heavenly Berkley, Open Doors
Ronnie Schoenberg	

CALL TO ORDER

Allison McCallum, Chair, called the Public Hearing to order. She opened the public hearing by welcoming everyone and giving a brief statement of the order of the meeting. Allison stated that this was the second of two public hearings and that the first was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2016.

Allison stated that Cleveland Heights is an Entitlement Community receiving Community Development Block Grant funds directly from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds enable the city to develop a viable community by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and by expanding economic opportunities. She explained that a final allocation for 2017 has not yet been made by Congress, but that the City is estimating that we will receive slightly less than 2016, which was about \$1.46 million. She explained that CDBG is a federal program and that all applicable regulations must be followed including an environmental review of each project that includes a Section 106 Historic Preservation Review.

Members of the audience not affiliated with an applicant agency were invited to speak regarding the CDBG program or community issues that could be addressed by a CDBG-funded activity.

Karen Knittel, City of Cleveland Heights Planner, informed those present that the County will be offering a new competitive grant program, the Community Development Supplemental Grant (CDSG) beginning in 2017. Grants of up to \$50,000 will be available to all communities in Cuyahoga County as well as community development corporations within the county which meet certain criteria. Activities that meet CDBG requirements will be eligible, but they do not need to meet the Low-Mod or Slum Blight objectives allowing much more flexibility in our scope. The City is currently discussing various projects for which we may apply.

Allison reminded each applicant to limit their prepared remarks to five minutes if they were applying for one activity and to eight minutes if they were applying for more than one activity. She stated that CAC members could ask questions after their comments. Presenters were reminded that CAC had received a copy of their written application and that a CAC Subcommittee would be contacting them after the public hearing.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Amanda Shaffer called the roll. A quorum was present.

APPLICATION HEARING FOR CDBG

Street Improvement Program - Total Request \$250,000

Alex Mannarino, Director of Public Works, reviewed the current year's activities and presented the request for FY 2017. The City is requesting funds to repave Coventry Road from the East Cleveland border to the Shaker Heights border. We applied for OPWC funds for this project but scored too low to qualify for funding. CDBG funds along with a joint application with Shaker will help us to meet the match requirement to increase our

score and secure funding.

Cedar Taylor Development Association – Total Request \$30,000

Kevin Smith, president of the Cedar Taylor Development Association, presented the request for funding to continue to implement improvements suggested by the streetscape study. Planters, signage, custom bike racks and benches have been installed. Fundraising efforts have been successful and they hope to continue to grow the organization. A mural will be installed on the building at the southwest corner of Cedar and Taylor which will be visible to drivers heading east on Cedar.

Heights Community Congress – Total Request \$13,000

Executive Director Martha Goble presented Heights Community Congress's request for Diversity programming for 2017. HCC feels that it is important to continue ongoing efforts in the area of diversity programming. HCC continued to self-fund a number of diversity programs in the past year. They have been well attended by a large number of people of various ages and racial groups. Educational red-lining was a large focus in the past year and they will continue their work on that subject. HCC continues to partner with the Heights Library, the CH/UH BOE, Ensemble Theatre, Dobama Theatre, the City of South Euclid and Noble Neighbors. They sponsored a film at the Cleveland International Film Festival that focused on ways to dismantle the Ku Klux Klan. The viewing and discussion were so successful that two additional sessions were added. In addition, HCC is working with the Oxford Community Garden and the Permaculture Project to provide courses on gardening as well as just bringing all types of people together working toward a singular goal. All of these activities support HCC's commitment to promote inclusive communities through individual and group activities.

Cleveland Tenants Organization – Total Request \$7,000

Angela Shuckahosee, Executive Director of CTO, presented the organization's request for 2017 funding to continue their Rental Information Center program for Cleveland Heights tenants and landlords. CTO continues to work with both tenants and landlords to help answer questions and resolve issues. They receive more than 10,000 calls each year from throughout Cuyahoga County. Cleveland Heights was the fourth highest community in the count for number of calls. The most frequent calls from tenants relates to the lack of repairs in rental units. The agency's main focus is to stabilize housing and they work closely with Cleveland Heights court to assist tenants facing evictions.

Heights Emergency Food Center – Total Request \$19,645

Heights Emergency Food Center Treasurer Bob Norton presented the agency's request. HEFC continues as an all-volunteer organization. The reason for the increase in the request for 2017 is that Disciples Church began charging rent to the organization for the

first time in more than 30 years. HEFC's reserve funds continue to dwindle as they have had to use approximately \$10,000 per year recently. The major donors to HEFC are 15 local churches who give an average of \$1000 per year. They also receive bequests from estates.

Office on Aging – Total Request \$25,000

Amy Jenkins, Office on Aging Supervisor presented their request for funding for 2016. The office continues to employ two part-time master level social workers who assist seniors throughout the city to be safe and secure in their homes or to help them transition to other circumstances. In 2016 one of the social workers faced a medical issue that resulted in an extended period of time off. She has returned to work, but at reduced hours. This time off resulted in the larger rollover amount available. The second long-time social worker retired in May. A new social worker was hired at that time. The social workers assess needs for services and help the seniors access those services, with work being done in person and/or on the phone. Amy explained that their office refers seniors to many programs, including Meals on Wheels, etc. Seniors are referred by the Police and Fire Departments, friends, neighbors and relatives. The Senior Center now holds group discussions with seniors where they are able to discuss issues and problems they face with one of the social workers. Amy noted that the Senior Center has been the recipient of two unique grants in the past year.

Heights Youth Club - Total Request \$68,145

Heights Youth Club Director Roscoe Morgan presented their request for 2017 funding for the Project Learn program. Roscoe was happy to announce that the club has a 100% rate of high school graduation among its members and a 100% success rate of members moving on to the next grade. More than 60% of the youth in the program who come four days a week have earned Merit or Honor Roll status. The club has worked closely with the school system during the school renovation. Boys and Girls Club has provided a van and the district provided a short bus to transport students to the center. This summer they averaged 108 members per day.

Open Doors Academy – Total Request \$15,000

Judith Mansour, Chief of Advancement, presented their request for funding for their year-round enrichment and character development programming at the St. Paul's site for Roxboro Middle School and the center at Monticello Middle School. Open Doors has grown rapidly and now has twelve sites throughout Greater Cleveland and serves more than 500 students, the bulk of which are in Cleveland Heights. They anticipate approximately 120 Cleveland Heights students in the upcoming school year. They have maintained a 100% graduation rate of their alums for the past 5 years with 97% of those

going on to college. Their summer camps focus on Open Doors' four core values. A STEM camp was added this summer.

Housing Preservation Office - Total Request \$575,600

Housing Preservation - \$455,600

Code Enforcement - \$60,000

Neighborhood Relations Program (public service) - \$60,000

Allan Butler, Housing Programs Manager, presented the HPO applications for funding for fiscal year 2017. The Code Enforcement program is now in its eighth year and continues to do the majority of inspections in low moderate areas. One thousand seventy one inspections were completed in 2015.

The Neighborhood Relations Program request is to pay a portion of the salary for a city representative to work in low/moderate areas to work on protecting the quality of life in our neighborhoods. The program coordinator attempts to prevent issues from bubbling up to where they become a problem to the entire block or neighborhood. He also works closely with the Police Department. This position was formerly held by Allan. David Harris has taken over the duties. In 2015, 5,242 persons were affected by the work of Neighborhood Relations.

Basic HPO activities have not changed from previous years. Funds are requested for operating costs for HPO as well as for the Exterior Paint, Violation Repair and Nuisance Abatement programs. Staff continues to be responsible for implementing the Deferred Loan and No-Interest Loan programs which are funded through HOME dollars as well as the County Lead Remediation and Demolition programs. These are in addition to the CDBG-funded programs - Exterior Paint, Violation Repair for Seniors, Short Term Deferred Loan and Nuisance Abatement.

Allan is requesting funding for a new position to assist our Rehab Specialist with the duties associated with all of the programs named above. The management of these construction projects has become unwieldy for a single person to manage due to the number of programs involved, certifications required and clerical work along with the actual supervision of numerous construction jobs.

Allison McCallum stated that this was the last applicant to present their 2017 requests. The public hearing portion of the meeting was closed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nancy McLaughlin reminded the subcommittee chairs to verify which applications fall to their committees. She will send out the list of questions that can be used as a guide for members when meeting with applicants. Nancy alerted CAC to the fact that the requests

exceed HUD caps in both Public Service activities (15%) and Planning and Admin (20%). This is the first time in memory that this has occurred with the Admin requests.

Nancy reminded the committee of the upcoming schedule for meetings. Subcommittee recommendations will be made at the September 6 meeting which will begin at 7:30. On September 13, at 7:00 p.m., CAC will make final recommendations. CAC will present these recommendations to City Council in late September, most probably on September 26.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Allison McCallum, Chair

Amanda Shaffer, Secretary