

**City of Cleveland Heights  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
September 8, 2015  
Executive Conference Room, Cleveland Heights City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeffrey Bendix	Donalene Poduska
David Benson	Carol Roe
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd	Amanda Shaffer
Cory Farmer	Kéba Sylla
Jonathan Goldman	Steve Titchenal
Christine Henry	Sarah West
Allison McCallum	George Witherspoon
Marian Morton	Parker Zabell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vetella Camper (exc.)	Douglas Dykes (exc.)
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STAFF PRESENT

Nancy McLaughlin

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Allison McCallum called the meeting to order. Secretary Amanda Shaffer called the roll; a quorum was present.

STAFF REPORTS

*Staff Recommendations*

Nancy McLaughlin distributed and reviewed staff's FY 2016 recommendations. Nancy noted that staff went through the requests for 2016 and made cuts in an effort to balance allocations to the total projected budget of \$1,440,000. Staff also pulled \$2,785 in from 2015 contingency funds to balance the budget. She went through each line item and explained the reasoning behind the recommendations.

Staff recommended cutting from nearly every activity requesting funds. In many cases, the recommendation was at or close to the 2015 allocation. Cuts were made to City programs where it was determined that rollover funds will be available at the end of the year.

## NEW BUSINESS

### FY 2016 CAC Recommendations

CAC was reminded that the allocation amount that CAC is using tonight to make recommendations is not a firm number until Congress determines the 2016 HUD budget and the formula is applied to all entitlements. It will be necessary to cut \$402,815 from the requests and \$267,351 from the subcommittee recommendations to meet the anticipated budget of \$1.44M.

In addition to the chair, there were twelve members present to begin the voting. Two members are affiliated with FutureHeights and abstained from the vote on that organization's request. Another member is an employee of the library and abstained from voting on the requests of several organizations with whom the library partners.

### **Administrative Activities**

#### *CD Administration*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$140,350

Motion to amend to \$120,000 by Parker Zabell; second by Amanda Shaffer.

CAC voted 12-0-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

(One member joined the meeting prior to the next vote; 13 members voting)

#### *AI Fair Housing Activities*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$12,750

Motion to amend to \$8,500 by Donalene Poduska; second by Jeff Bendix.

CAC voted 13-0-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

#### *Cleveland Tenants Organization*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$7,000

CAC voted 13-0-0 in favor of the motion.

#### *Heights Community Congress*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$0

CAC voted 9-4-1 in favor of the motion.

After much discussion, the committee decided to approve the subcommittee recommendation. There were concerns that HCC is not a strong organization and that they are not impactful in the community. Nancy McLaughlin explained that the new Fair Housing Rule that was recently enacted by HUD will change the emphasis on Fair Housing expenditures within the CDBG program. Some members were concerned that

this is the only Diversity education effort in the City and it should be funded.

(One member joined the meeting prior to the next vote; 14 members voting)

#### *FutureHeights*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$43,000

Motion to amend to \$10,000 by Donalene Poduska; second by Sarah West.  
CAC voted 3-9-2 against the motion.

Motion to amend to \$30,000 by Steve Titchenal; second by David Benson.  
CAC voted 8-3-3 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

(One member stepped away prior to the next vote; 13 members voting)

### **Public Service Activities**

#### *HRRC Housing Counselor*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$42,120

Motion to amend to \$20,000 by Amanda Shaffer; second by Parker Zabell.  
CAC voted 12-0-1 in favor of the motion.

CAC wished to increase the allocation over the 2015 amount, but was aware of the need to cut to meet both the Public Service cap and the overall estimated budget.

#### *Center for Families and Children – Pinpoint*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$20,000

Motion to amend to \$17,000 by Amanda Shaffer; second by Jeff Bendix.  
CAC voted 12-1-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

(One member returned prior to the next vote; 14 members voting.)

#### *Office on Aging Senior Services*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$30,000

Motion to amend to \$35,000 by Amanda Shaffer; second by Kim DeNero-Ackroyd.  
CAC voted 14-0-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

#### *Heights Emergency Food Center*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$11,000

CAC voted 14-0-0 in favor of the motion.

#### *Family Connections*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$30,000

Motion to amend to \$20,000 by Donalene Poduska; second by David Benson.

CAC voted 13-0-1 in favor of the motion.

(One additional member came prior to the next vote; 15 members voting)

#### *Open Doors Academy*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$10,000

Motion to amend to \$0 by Donalene Poduska; second by Amanda Shaffer.

CAC voted 6-7-2 against the motion.

Discussion centered on the merits of the organization and the fact that they are a success story. However, they also have multiple and significant funding sources. This was viewed as a positive as well as a negative; with some members wishing to continue some funding to show that the City supports their efforts. There was a lengthy discussion as well as several other attempts at other funding amounts. Initially, the discussion was tabled until further funding decisions were made.

When all Public Service activities were funded, there was a balance of \$4,720 still available under the cap.

Second motion to amend to \$4,720 by Amanda Shaffer; second by Chris Henry.

CAC voted 5-8-2 against the motion.

At the end of the evening there was discussion about the remaining amount that was available, which was \$1500 including contingency funds. There were several ideas about what to do with that amount of money. It was determined, by acclamation, that the funding amount for Open Doors would remain at \$0.

#### *Heights Youth Club*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$50,000

CAC voted 3-11-1 against the motion.

Motion to amend to \$35,000 by Donalene Poduska; second by Chris Henry.

CAC voted 11-4-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

#### *Start Right Food Program*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$5,000

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion

#### *Neighborhood Relations Program*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$60,000

Motion to amend to \$57,500 by Keba Sylla; second by Amanda Shaffer.

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

#### *Gesher*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$5,000

Motion to amend to \$0 by Donalene Poduska; second by Kim DeNero-Ackroyd.

CAC voted 14-1-0 in favor of the motion.

There was a long discussion on the merits of this program. Members feel that they offer excellent assistance and are a wonderful resource. However, members are concerned that the organization serves few, if any, clients outside of the Orthodox community and does not seem inclined to promote their services.

#### *Lake Erie Ink*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$6,780

Motion to amend to \$6,780 by Amanda Shaffer; second by Parker Zabell.

CAC voted 14-0-1 in favor of the motion.

#### *Community Diversion Program*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$3,000

Motion to amend to \$4,000 by Amanda Shaffer; second by Chris Henry.

CAC voted 8-7-0 in favor of the motion.

After discussion, the motion was made to split the difference between the subcommittee and staff recommendations. Members are impressed with the program and wish to offer an opportunity for it to grow. Those voting no wished to approve the subcommittee recommendation.

### **Housing Activities**

*Home Repair Resource Center Subcommittee recommendations:*

*HRRC Operating Expenses: \$98,280*

Motion to amend to \$95,000 by Keba Sylla; second by Sarah West.

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

*Assist Incentive Grant: \$20,000*

Motion to amend to \$15,000 by Jon Goldman; second by David Benson.

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

*Deferred Loan Match: \$10,000*

Motion to amend to \$5,000 by Amanda Shaffer; second by David Benson.

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee decided to reduce this allocation in favor of fully funding the Senior Home Stability Grant.

*Senior Home Stability Grant: \$10,000*

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion.

*Total: \$125,000*

*Benjamin Rose Institute*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$0

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion.

*Housing Preservation Office Subcommittee recommendations:*

*Paint Program: \$80,000*

Motion to amend to \$75,000 by Amanda Shaffer; second by Jon Goldman.

CAC voted 8-7-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision. The dissenting votes wished to fund at the subcommittee recommendation.

*Violation Repair Program for Seniors:*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$20,000

Motion to amend to \$17,500 by Keba Sylla; second by David Benson.

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

*Sewer Remediation:*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$20,000

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion.

*Nuisance Abatement:*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$25,000

Motion to amend to \$15,000 by Amanda Shaffer; second by Marian Morton.

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

*HPO Operating/Staff:* \$258,091

Subcommittee recommendation: \$258,491

Motion to amend to \$250,000 by Jeff Bendix; second by Donalene Poduska.

CAC voted 15-0-0 favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

*LMI Code Enforcement:*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$65,000

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion.

## **Economic Development**

*Economic Development Administration*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$60,000

Motion to amend to \$30,000 by Parker Zabell; second by Amanda Shaffer.

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

## **Public Facilities**

*Cedar Taylor Development Association*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$15,000 (\$10,000 plus \$5,000 with match)

Motion to amend to \$10,000 by Keba Sylla; second by Jon Goldman.

CAC voted 12-3-0 on the motion.

The committee used the staff recommendation to guide their decision.

*Water Line Rehabilitation*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$325,000

Motion to amend to \$291,500 by Donalene Poduska; second by Jeff Bendix.

CAC voted 8-7-0 in favor of the motion.

The new amount was determined by using the staff recommendation and adding a small amount from funds still available to program, including some contingency, to get closer to the request. Those voting no generally wished to go with staff recommendations and leave the funds for another organization.

*Street Improvements*

Subcommittee recommendation: \$224,980

Motion to amend to \$165,505 by Donalene Poduska; second by Chris Henry.

CAC voted 15-0-0 in favor of the motion.

The committee decided to follow staff recommendations.

Donalene Poduska moved that these recommendations, as voted on previously, be put forward as the Year 42(Fiscal Year 2016) CDBG Allocation recommendations from the Citizens Advisory Committee to City Council. The allocations approved as noted above total \$1,441,285 and used \$1,285 of the current balance in the contingency fund for 2016 funding.

The motion was seconded by Jeff Bendix and passed by a vote of 15-0-0.

CAC was reminded that Allison McCallum will present CAC's recommendations to City Council on Wednesday, September 30 tentatively scheduled for 6:30. All members are invited to attend. Allison thanked the committee for their thorough work.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15.

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Allison McCallum, Chair

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Amanda Shaffer, Secretary