

**City of Cleveland Heights  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
November 17, 2015**

**Executive Conference Room, Cleveland Heights City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeffrey Bendix

David Benson

Kim DeNero-Ackroyd

Cory Farmer

Jonathan Goldman

Christine Henry

Allison McCallum

Marian Morton

Donalene Poduska

Carol Roe

Amanda Shaffer

Steve Titchenal

Meg Vanderbilt

Sarah West

George Witherspoon

Parker Zabell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vetella Camper (exc.)

Douglas Dykes (exc.)

Menachem Lubling (exc.)

Kéba Sylla

GUESTS PRESENT

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Sruti Basu

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.

PRESENTATION

Deanna Bremer Fisher spoke about the Community Building program that FutureHeights began in April. It is being partially funded through CDBG funds. The goal of the program is to help strengthen neighborhoods. Four workshops were held in late spring with 14 participants from several different neighborhoods in Cleveland Heights. They plan to offer the workshops in 2016 for a new group of participants.

FutureHeights also offered two community forums in the summer and fall. The first focused on Understanding Policing and the second forum discussed Reimagining Severance. A survey was developed following the Severance forum. The results will be

presented in the December *Heights Observer*. They also hope to share it with the Master Plan committee and city staff.

Sruti Basu started in a full-time position with FutureHeights at the end of August. She is working closely with the Neighborhood Mini-grant program. Four applications were received, two from Noble Neighborhood, one from the Cedar Taylor Development Association and one from a group in the North Park area. A seven person committee is evaluating the applications and the grants will be awarded before the end of the year.

The biggest challenge for the program is keeping people engaged as well as getting younger people involved.

#### MINUTES

Minutes of the October 20, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Nancy McLaughlin reported that there were no unusual expenditures in the past month. As she indicated at the October meeting, the City did not meet its 2015 timeliness goal with HUD. The City received the official notification from HUD today. We must meet the goal by November 2, 2016 to avoid paying a penalty.

The 2016 Federal budget is not yet finalized. The annual plan will be submitted to HUD within 60 days of the notification of our 2016 grant allocation.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nancy presented the CAC calendar for 2016 to the committee noting that the January and February meetings will be on the second Tuesday due to scheduling conflicts.

Nancy thanked all members for returning the forms indicating their intent to return to CAC in 2016. Three members will not be returning, leaving five vacancies to be filled. Jeff Bendix and Keba Sylla have chosen not to seek reappointment. Carol Roe will be moving on to City Council in January. There are also two vacancies from earlier resignations. Nancy thanked those not returning for their hard work over the years, especially Jeff and Keba who both served two years as chair of CAC.

#### NEW BUSINESS

CAC wished Carol well in her new role on Council. Members asked that a message get to council that having a member at the meetings is very important to the committee.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

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Allison McCallum, Chair

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Amanda Shaffer, Secretary