

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Community Development Committee**

July 10, 2017

Members: Adam Miller, Chair
Vic Pallotta
Paul Colavecchio

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-51

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-51

An ordinance approving the Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan for fiscal year 2017, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Kelli Crawford-Smith, CDGB Entitlement Administrator, stated that the 2017 Annual Action Plan represents the fourth year of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Strategy and Plan for the City of Cuyahoga Falls. The Consolidated Plan describes the City's proposed activities for affordable housing, public services, public infrastructure improvements, economic development, historic preservation, and programmatic compliance. The Annual Action Plan is required to address needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. To be eligible, activities must meet one of the following objectives: Create suitable living environments; provide decent and affordable housing and create economic opportunities. CDBG funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to, acquisition of real property, relocation and demolition, rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures, construction of public facilities and improvements, public services, and, within certain limits, activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources, provision of assistance for economic development and job creation/retention activities and historic preservation

Ms. Crawford Smith stated that a total of \$1,047,169.07 will be available to utilize on eligible activities in 2017. The funding amount, source and use of funding are \$102,194.00 in prior-year entitlement funds; \$134,659.54 in prior-year NSP funds; \$122,317.53 in Economic Development Revolving Loan Funds; \$95,000 in housing Revolving Loan Funds and \$592,998 in their 2017 Annual Allocation from HUD. During the 2017 plan period, CDBG monies will be used to fund the following projects: Owner-Occupied Housing Activities, public services, economic development and programmatic compliance.

Ms. Crawford-Smith stated that, on May 23 of this year, Mayor Walters was presented with the Age-Friendly City Award from Mature Services. The Senior Snow Program is funded through CDBG. This year, CDBG has expanded their Housing Rehabilitation Program to include additional comprehensive rehabilitation projects that will be completed through their new

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partnership with Rebuilding Together. They are also collaborating with Habitat for Humanity for an exterior home repair program, A Brush With Kindness. Through these programs, they will continue to assist residents as they work to help create suitable living environments throughout the city. CDBG has also continued to strengthen their relationships with their community partners and support service providers such as AMHA, Mature Services, Good Neighbors, Fair Housing Advocates Association and the International Institute. In conjunction with their Fair Housing Month event, they partnered with the International Institute and brought in a speaker to talk about refugee and immigrant populations. They are also proud to be collaborating with Ohio Savings Bank to offer a free seminar on financial literacy that will include topics such as mortgage lending basics, down payment assistance options, first-time homebuyer programs and the importance of credit and credit scores. On September 7, CDBG will be partnering with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office for a senior safety seminar that will include a paperwork clinic for the 2017-2018 Senior Snow Program. They have also been able to successfully utilize economic development dollars to help revitalize the areas of South Front Street and Front Street as the City redevelops downtown. They have been able to help businesses relocate to Cuyahoga Falls from outside cities and have been able to aid our local entrepreneurs in starting up new businesses and growing the local economy. Ms. Crawford-Smith stated that Mike Bogo and Erica Sadaj from NDS, Vince Curry, from Fair Housing Advocates Association, and Rochelle Sibbio, from Habitat for Humanity, were present to answer any questions about the services they provide.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that she would like to thank Ms. Crawford-Smith for all the public meetings, presentations and information given to Council. Mrs. Pyke stated that it looks like CDBG helped 11 property owners last year. She asked what their goal was for next year. Ms. Crawford-Smith stated that their goal is always 20. It is difficult, because they run into weather-related issues. Expanding to include Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity is going to be helpful, because it is going to maximize their resources and enable them to help more individuals this year. Mrs. Pyke asked if there were plans for Habitat for Humanity to rehab a home in the city. Ms. Rochelle Sibbio, President of Habitat for Humanity in Summit County, stated that they have been working with a property on 647 School Street, diagonal from the fire station. They will be building there in the fall. They have four approved applicants for the home repair program. CDBG funding was for eight. Two of their projects are on the same street. They will keep trying to work toward getting those other four and, hopefully, coming back to renew that program.

Mrs. Pyke asked how CDBG was helping the refugees and what came from the meeting they had. Ms. Crawford-Smith stated that one of the positive aspects that came out of that meeting was that she, Vince Curry and the representatives from the International Institute met and talked about how they can start partnering. One of the things that they want to do is more outreach within the community and have more community meetings where they can invite the community to talk more about refugees and immigrants. Mrs. Pyke asked if grants given by the City through CDGB must come through Council. Mr. Russell Balthis, Law Director, stated that the CDGB process that is required to approve those grants is that they must be over \$50,000 before it would trigger Council approval. Mrs. Pyke asked if those approvals are through the Board of Control. Mr. Balthis stated

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that if they are over \$50,000, they would go through the Board of Control. Mrs. Pyke stated that she is glad Council will have an opportunity to look this over for the next two weeks. Ms. Crawford-Smith stated she would be happy to answer any questions or provide any additional documentation Council may need.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.