

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Time and Place: The Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee met on Monday, September 9, 2013 at 5:00 pm, 1st Floor Council Chambers at City Hall

Members Present: Chairman Bohlken, D. Ackerman, Freiberg, S. Ackerman, Brezinski, Thao

Members Excused: Reif, Gumness

Others Present: Allen Wesolowski - City Engineering Department; Diane Borchardt, Carmen Engelman and Mary Jacobson, Catholic Charities; Jane Graham Jennings, Shannon Jarecki and Jill Mattek Nelson, Women's Community, Theresa Clift, Wausau Daily Herald; Craig Olafsson, potential new committee member; and Tammy Stratz and Travis Lepinski, Community Development Staff

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and received by the Daily Herald in the proper manner.

1. Call to order

Chairman Bohlken called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Stratz and Lepinski distributed the Summary Pages that were received and were told there may be additional ones that come in before the next public hearing. Bohlken opened up the public hearing for the 2013 Community Development Block Grant Program.

2. Public Hearing Item (to receive comments on program performance and the 2014 Annual Plan for Community Development Block Grant and Public Housing).

Allen Wesolowski, City Engineering Department, presented a public works street redevelopment project for S. 6th Avenue from West Street to Garfield Avenue. The project consists of 25 residential properties and will install new curb, gutter and street pavement. The requested amount of \$125,000 will decrease the proposed assessed amount from \$36 per foot to approximately \$15 per foot of frontage. This area meets the low income requirements per census information. This decreased amount will only affect the residential properties – not the commercial properties.

Jane Graham Jennings, Executive Director of The Women's Community, thanked the committee members for their past support for their capital campaign for building their new shelter. This building has truly made a difference in many abused spouses and their children. The Women's Community is requesting \$15,000 to be used towards funding to staff the shelter and to work with the Domestic Abuse Response Team (D.A.R.T.). This team works with abuse victims as soon as the call is placed to the police department. They work with both the Police Departments and the District Attorney's office to follow up with the victims within 72 hours of the abuse to make sure they are brought into a safe environment. These clients are worked with according to each individual/family needs are.

Mary Jacobson, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, is submitting two requests. The first is for \$18,000 to assist with Project Step Up and \$25,000 to assist in the funding of the new Warming Shelter.

Carmen Engelman spoke regarding the Project Step Up program. Each client/family is provided with a mentor who works side by side for one year to accomplish goals. Many of these goals are to establish and stick to a monthly budget, overcoming financial hardships, work on bettering their credit, financial education for both the parents and the children and another other individual issues they may have. All their clients fall under the very low income category. One major success story was one of their clients that only after a year and a half of working in this program was able to purchase their own home. She went from ready to file bankruptcy to becoming a homeowner.

Diane Borchardt spoke regarding the Warming Shelter. This shelter was opened up this past winter through the United Way's Homeless Coalition and was located in Downtown Wausau. The operation of the shelter was then passed on from the United Way to Catholic Charities and was able to assist 59 separate individuals during the past winter months. Clients are able to come to the shelter to get a warm meal and a warm place to rest. Unlike other shelters, the clients may be under the influence, but they must be stable. If they are slurring or swaying or showing other symptoms of possible alcohol poisoning, staff will call 911 for assistance. Thankfully this has not happened this past year. This coming year the shelter is being relocated to a new location at S. 3rd Avenue. The goal for the agency is to take an extra step in working with those clients that are open for change and gear them in the right direction to make such changes so they are no longer homeless. The new facility will also offer a shower area – which is a new feature from the last location. Catholic Charities is currently fundraising for the \$60,000

needed to complete these renovations – of which they already have received \$20,000.

With no other comments to be made to the committee, Bohlken closed the public hearing.

3. Approval of minutes from July 8, 2013.

S. Ackerman moved to approve the minutes as read. Freiberg seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Adjourn

With no other business to be brought to the committee and with a motion by D. Ackerman and seconded by Thao, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Bohlen
Chair