



Housing & Community Development Committee

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Virtual on Zoom

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
PRESENT:**

Chair Eleanor Revelle, Kathy Feingold, Hugo Rodriguez, Joanne Zolomij, Jonathan Nieuwsma, Loren Berlin, Member, Bobby Burns, and Devon Reid

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
ABSENT:**

Monika Bobo

STAFF PRESENT:

Sarah Flax, Housing & Grants Manager; Marion Johnson, Housing & Economic Development Analyst

GUESTS PRESENT:

Angel Schnur, Rob Anthony, Lara Biggs

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Revelle called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM with a quorum present.

2. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Loren Berlin moved the suspension of the rules to allow for members to participate electronically or by phone. Hugo Rodriguez seconded the motion, the motion was approved 5-0.

3. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 16, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Joanne Zolomij moved to approve the minutes, Kathy Feingold seconded the motion, the motion was approved 5-0.

4. PUBLIC INPUT ON THE 2022 DRAFT ACTION PLAN AND AMENDED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

- A. Jane Grover submitted a comment to state it should be called 'Public Participation Plan' or 'Community Participation Plan' as not all those who participate are citizens. Residents could be part of it, notwithstanding their citizenship status.

Staff stated the Citizen Participation Plan is named as such to reflect HUD regulations.

However, staff calls on public participation as 'Public comment being requested' to the Citizen Participation Plan. Staff will relay the information to HUD.

Motion to close public comment period on the draft Citizen Participation Plan and Action Plan.

Moved by Loren Berlin

Seconded by Hugo Rodriguez

Ayes: Eleanor Revelle, Kathy Feingold, Hugo Rodriguez, Joanne Zolomij, and Loren Berlin

Carried 5-0 on a recorded vote

5. NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON THE 2022 DRAFT ACTION PLAN ALLOCATIONS BY GOAL BASED ON ESTIMATED GRANT AMOUNTS

Staff summarized discussion from the November 16, 2021 meeting. Staff explained the process to reach release of funds. Loren Berlin inquired into the timeline of receipt of grant amounts and the issuance of RFPs for Public Infrastructure projects for nonprofits. Staff explained RFPs are not issued until actual grant amounts are received. Staff explained the historical changes in funding and efforts made by staff to keep programs running. Joanne Zolomij asked for examples of what projects the nonprofits have used the funding for. Staff explained the various capital projects done by nonprofits with CDBG funding; most included addressing deferred maintenance issues.

Motion to approve 2022 Action Plan Allocations by Goal based on estimated grant amounts.

Moved by Kathy Feingold

Seconded by Loren Berlin

Ayes: Kathy Feingold, Hugo Rodriguez, Joanne Zolomij, Loren Berlin, and Eleanor Revelle

Carried 5-0 on a recorded vote

B. REVIEW OF AND APPROVAL OF 2022 CDBG FUNDING FOR CITY OF EVANSTON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS BASED ON AN ESTIMATED 2022 CDBG GRANT AMOUNT:

1. Code Enforcement (\$325,000)
2. Housing Rehabilitation (\$202,500, including \$100,000 EN and \$102,500 RL)
3. Alley Improvements N. of Emerson Street, E. of Hartrey Avenue (\$390,000)
4. Sidewalk Gap Infill – Foster Street From Dewey to Jackson (\$150,000)
5. Sidewalk Improvement (\$200,000)
6. Park, Picnic Shelter Electrical Improvement (\$120,000)

Lara Biggs explained the process to perform Alley Paving projects. Hugo Rodriguez inquired about the City's 50/50 alley paving funding. Lara Biggs stated there is a backlog of about six years due to great demand. Lara Biggs stated the City is providing monies from the City's General Fund and the West Evanston TIF to fix sidewalks around schools and senior facilities with mobility limitations. She explained CDBG funding will be used only in CDBG-eligible areas. Staff stated the Park, Picnic, Shelter Electrical Improvement project funding request comes from the Parks and Rec. Department reflecting the need to have electrical service in outdoor settings. Staff stated this project is also eligible for ARPA funding. Councilmember Burns stated these spaces are used as safe gathering places for young people to do work.

All concurred to prioritize items 1-4 to be funded as requested. Discussion was had on whether or not to approve items 5 and 6 to be partially funded.

Motion to approve 2022 CDBG funding for Code Enforcement (\$325,000), Housing Rehabilitation (\$202,500), Alley improvements (\$390,000), Sidewalk Gap Infill (\$150,000), Sidewalk Improvements (\$129,625), and Park/Picnic Shelter Electrical Improvement (\$60,000)

Moved by Councilmember Devon Reid

Seconded by Hugo Rodriguez

Ayes: Kathy Feingold, Hugo Rodriguez, Joanne Zolomij, Jonathan Nieuwsma, Loren Berlin, Bobby Burns, Eleanor Revelle, and Devon Reid

Carried 8-0 on a recorded vote

C. DISCUSSION AND VOTE TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT 2022 ACTION PLAN AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN TO CITY COUNCIL FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF 2022 ENTITLEMENT GRANT AMOUNTS

Motion to recommend approval of the Draft 2022 Action Plan and Citizen Participation Plan to City Council following the receipt of 2022 Entitlement Grant amounts.

Moved by Councilmember Jonathan Nieuwsma

Seconded by Kathy Feingold

Ayes: Kathy Feingold, Jonathan Nieuwsma, Hugo Rodriguez, Joanne Zolomij, Loren Berlin, Bobby Burns, Eleanor Revelle, and Devon Reid

Carried 8-0 on a recorded vote

D. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RULES AND PROCEDURES

Loren Berlin inquired about the revision removing conflict of interest language. Sarah Flax stated this portion had been carried over from the Mental Health Board rules and procedures

but is not necessary. Conflict of interest is completely addressed in the City of Evanston Code of Ethics and is redundant language in rules and procedures, per legal staff counsel.

Motion to approve amended Rules and Procedures for the Housing & Community Development Committee.

Moved by Hugo Rodriguez

Seconded by Councilmember Jonathan Nieuwsma

Ayes: Hugo Rodriguez, Jonathan Nieuwsma, Kathy Feingold, Joanne Zolomij,
Loren Berlin, Bobby Burns, Eleanor Revelle, and Devon Reid

Carried 8-0 on a recorded vote

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.