



CITY OF NEWARK

Community Development Advisory Committee

City Hall, City Council Chambers

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MINUTES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

5:00 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

Chairperson Nagy called the meeting to order, via teleconference, at 5:05 p.m. Present were members Aguilar, Borjon, Fitts, Freitas, Hentschke, and Lucia (all via teleconference).

II. MINUTES

Approval of Minutes of the February 18, 2021, Meeting

MOTION APPROVED

Member Freitas moved, and member Hentschke seconded, to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2021, meeting. The motion passed 7 AYES.

III. STAFF REPORTS

A. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Status Report

Deputy Community Development Director (DCDD) Interiano provided a presentation to include the FY 22/23 report, Jurisdictional Improvement Funds, Proposed Improvements, and staff recommendations. DCDD Interiano stated that staff has not received confirmation of the official amounts for the Urban County allocation but estimates that the City will receive \$193,557 broken down as General Administration \$7,800, Housing Rehabilitation \$47,655, and Jurisdiction Improvements \$138,103. For Housing Rehabilitation in FY 20/21, there were 4 repairs and so far for FY 21/22, there were 5 repairs completed, 3 scheduled, and one on a waitlist.

B. Recommendations for 2022-23 Jurisdiction Improvements Project Funds

(MOTION)

DCDD Interiano presented that staff's recommendation for Jurisdictional Improvement Funds is to apply the funds to the Citywide ADA Compliance Improvement such as resurfacing the basketball court at Byington Park and sidewalk and pathway repairs at Ash Street Park, Lake Shore Park, and Civic Center Park.

Chair Nagy asked if this year's funds are expected to cover the work that's required. DCDD Interiano stated no but hopes that leftover funds from last year will cover the cost.

Member Freitas asked if the Ash Street Park basketball court is included as part of this request. DCDD Interiano replied it's not part of this request, but staff is looking to revise the previous application to consider it.

Member Borjon asked if the report can be advertised or posted for the public to view. DCDD Interiano stated it can be placed on our website and for future reports, it can be placed in the City newsletter.

Member Borjon stated that adding a bathroom at Lake Shore Park was number 6 on the priority list last year and asked if it can be made higher on the list for this year. Associate Civil Engineer (ACE) Tran answered that it wasn't discussed to provide a bathroom at that park. Chair Nagy stated the Committee can make a recommendation to City Council to have a bathroom installed at the park, but these funds would not cover the costs of installing a bathroom at any park. ACE Tran reiterated that the funds expire every year and it's difficult to use these funds for large projects like a bathroom.

Member Hentschke mentioned the packet included service-type projects and asked for more information. DCDD Interiano mentioned he has a separate presentation for that and will share that shortly.

Member Aguilar asked what the timing is for the improvements. DCDD Interiano stated the funding timeline is that the recommendation will go to City Council with an official contract from Housing Community Development. Once the funding is received, the projects can commence on July 1.

Member Fitts moved, Member Borjon seconded, to approve staff recommendations for 2022-23 Jurisdiction Improvements Project Funds. The motion passed 7 AYES.

Member Lucia asked how close the City is to reaching the 50,000 population threshold. Chair Nagy stated we are at approximately 48,000. It will be a few years away before we can reach 50,000.

C. Discussion on Alternate Use of CDBG Funds FY 2023-2024

(PRESENTATION)

Sophie Gabel-Scheinbaum from Urban Planning Partners provided an overview of the Community Develop Block Grant including history and quick facts, details on CDBG's three national objectives: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight, and meet an urgent need, CDBG eligible activities, and funding timeline. DCDD Interiano presented the next steps such as public outreach with non-profits to see what the needs are in the community. Staff would then report back to the committee with recommendations.

Chair Nagy asked how many years the funds can be saved up. DCDD Interiano answered that it's two years. Chair Nagy commented that due to the size of the City and the amount of funding, there's a limited number of projects that can be completed.

Chair Nagy mentioned an organization had approached him regarding their project of growing fruit trees on residential properties and then distributing them to food banks. Chair Nagy asked if this is a project that can be funded by the CDBG funds. DCDD Interiano stated that it could be funded by CDBG funds if the produce is being donated to low-income households.

Ms. Gabel-Scheinbaum commented that there is a large benefit in building a relationship with non-profit groups so that in the future when larger funds become available there will be a more competitive application pool.

Member Borjon asked if the City can be more aggressive with lining up projects so that when the funds become available, they can quickly be submitted. DCDD Interiano stated it is the goal of staff and the committee to line up alternative projects since capital improvement projects are becoming less.

Member Aguilar asked if it's possible to file an extension for the funds. DCDD Interiano stated he'll need to investigate the application but there is a 15% penalty fee for the allocated money when it's not spent in time.

Chair Nagy asked if committee members can reach out when they have project suggestions. DCDD Interiano replied that staff will be reaching out to non-profits with information regarding CDBG funds. At the same time, staff will also reach out to the committee for suggestions and outreach materials.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Nagy adjourned the Community Development Advisory Committee meeting at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Turner", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

STEVEN TURNER
Secretary