

**GREENSBORO COMMUNITY RESOURCE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 17, 2011**

A regular meeting of the Greensboro Community Resource Board was called on Thursday, March 17, 2011 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:04 p.m. The following Board members were present: Chair Tijuana Hayes, Bennett Hollers, John Martin, Reece Coble, and Johanna Cockburn. Staff was represented by Gwen Torain, Michael Blair, Barbara Harris, Rhonda Enoch, Susan Crofts, and Sue Schwartz. Also in attendance was Tina Akers-Brown, Ex-Officio.

Chair Hayes welcomed those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 20, 2011 AND FEBRUARY 17, 2011 MEETINGS:

Mr. Martin moved to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2011 and February 17, 2011 meetings as written, seconded by Mr. Coble. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBIC HEARING TO INVITE COMMENTS REGARDING AMENDING THE 2010-14 CONSOLIDATED PLAN TO ADD THE FEDERALLY FUNDED HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOWPA) PROGRAM:

Ms. Torain gave a staff presentation on the amendment request to the Plan to include the HOWPA program. The City of Greensboro was notified by the department of Housing & Urban Development late last year that Greensboro, High Point and Guilford, Randolph, and Rockingham counties are eligible to receive HOWPA funding. The City of Greensboro will administer the funding as they are the largest city in the service area. The City will work with a local partner, Central Carolina Health Network, to administer the funds.

Ms. Torain reported that a comment was received by e-mail from Ms. Jenise Bradshaw. She read the e-mail into the record acknowledging Ms. Bradshaw's support for amending the Consolidated Plan by adding the HOWPA program.

Mr. Kent Gammon, Executive Director of Central Carolina Health Network, described the HOWPA program and his firm's experience administering the program. The program supports housing needs for people living with AIDS. Housing vouchers are provided for eligible clients. The program currently serves around 273 clients in a seven county region. To be eligible for the program an individual must have HIV positivity, meet a financial eligibility threshold, and live in the area. In addition to vouchers, Central Carolina Health Network puts a small amount of funding into short-term rent, mortgage, and utilities.

Chair Hayes opened the Public Hearing.

There was no one present wishing to speak in reference to the HOWPA program.

Ms. Cockburn moved to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Ms. Hollers. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Cockburn moved to amend the Consolidated Plan to add the HOWPA program along with funding, seconded by Mr. Coble. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ONGOING FUNDING COMMITMENTS AND DRAFT FY 2011-12 BUDGET:

Ms. Schwartz reviewed factors that influence the budget and gave an update on current commitments.

Ms. Schwartz described items being accomplished including 108 loan repayment, creating investment in communities, the South Elm-Brownfield Redevelopment project, development of the Bessemer Center, and the City-wide rehabilitation program. She described benefits from the City's fourth Lead Safe Housing Grant in the amount of \$3.1 million along with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) stimulus funds resulting in five full-time permanent jobs. On an operational level, Housing and Community Development merged with the Planning Department and added the Local Ordinance Enforcement section of the Inspections Department. Consequently, the Department's reach has broadened and operational costs are expected to shrink. In addition, the Consolidated Plan was updated and adopted and has become a HUD Best Practice. The Department has changed how the Annual Plan is structured based on the goals the Consolidated Plan.

Ms. Schwartz stated that federal funding allocations have yet to be finalized. The allocation recommendation from staff is based on a conservative estimated 15% cut in CDBG funding. The estimated reduction in HOME Program funds is 9.5%. In addition, the City budget has not been finalized and the State may withhold revenue. If more money is available, staff will return with amendments to allocations and the Annual Plan.

Ms. Schwartz summarized that comments expressed at the March 10, 2011 Public Hearing focused on the dramatic increase in very low income households. There was discussion around the need for funding for housing rehabilitation, funding for new rental units, the need for mixed-use housing and the difference it makes in transforming neighborhoods, and the need to complete projects in the Arlington Park neighborhood.

Ms. Schwartz reviewed the handout of recommended allocations distributed to members totaling \$3,398,587. Even though there are funding restraints, the recommended allocations continue or complete projects, leverage other grants, and keep homelessness funding at a relatively stable rate. She answered questions from members and clarified that reductions of 15% in CDBG and 9.5 % reductions in HOME Program funds were taken in consideration and kept constant throughout the categories based on operations, not per category.

Ms. Schwartz reviewed the timetable and stated that the Annual Plan summary must be published on April 13, 2011 and City Council is scheduled to consider it for adoption on May 3, 2011. The Annual Plan must go to HUD on May 13, 2011.

Ms. Hollers moved to adopt the draft allocation and recommend it to City Council, seconded by Mr. Coble. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

COMPLETE STREETS:

Ms. Cockburn gave a presentation on the implementation of Complete Streets in North Carolina. She defined a complete street as one that gives space for a variety of usages, not just for cars and trucks but for transit and access to transit by pedestrians. Complete Streets gives an opportunity to address a wide range of issues that address quality of life in a community such as air quality, congestion, ADA compliance, universal design for accessibility, active transportation, public health, and housing affordability.

Ms. Cockburn discussed Complete Streets at the national level as well as in North Carolina; barriers to implementation; the timeline for implementation, and what communities can do now. To learn more about Complete Streets, she directed members to the following websites: www.nccompletestreets.org and www.completestreets.org.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Torain advised members to disregard the special meetings set aside for additional budget discussions. The next meeting is the regular meeting scheduled for April, 2011.

Mr. Coble inquired about the status of the Nettie Coad apartments. Ms. Harris responded that contracts are being executed and construction is expected to begin in mid-April. The contractor indicated that renovation can be completed within 60 to 75 days.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Schwartz, Ex Officio
Greensboro Community Resource Board

SS:sm/jd