



**City of Central Falls
Planning Board
Public Meeting
Friday, October 2, 2015
6:00 PM
In the City Council Chambers
City Hall
580 Broad Street
Central Falls, R.I. 02863**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m. by Chairman Michael Lester.

II. Roll Call

Leslie Moore, Tatiana Baena, and Chairman Lester, present. Andres Hincapie and Maria Ines Lopez absent. *Peter Friedrichs (Planning and Economic Development) staffed the meeting.*

III. Election of Officers

- a. Secretary
Ms. Baena nominated Ms. Leslie Moore. Chairman Lester seconded.
Ms. Baena made a Motion for a vote. Chairman Lester seconded.
A roll call vote was taken: Chairman Lester, Ms. Baena, and Ms. Moore, yes.
Ms. Moore elected Secretary.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Baena to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Secretary Moore, and the vote unanimous.

V. New Business

- a. Consideration
 - i. Program Year 2015 Community Block Grant Application comment and Comprehensive Plan not in conflict.

Director Friedrichs presented to the Board the abstracts of each activity of the Program Year 2015 CDBG Application, and a memo to Chairman Lester providing citations demonstrating conformance with the Comprehensive Plan for each activity. The Board was awarded the opportunity to comment on each activity. :

- 1. City Parks Safety and Security**
- 2. Nuisance Property Enforcement**

Secretary Moore asked if this new position would allow what exists to continue, or change the staffing.

Director Friedrichs explained that this would change the staffing, adding a third inspector, where there are two at present. The new position would substantially increase the capability of the Department to enforce minimum housing code by proactively seeking code violations to correct.

3. Closing Cost Assistance

4. Home Ownership Program

Chairman Lester showed support for this program, stating that it helps those who need it and create a more balanced community.

5. Youth Enrichment Program

Chairman Lester considered that this program is a great investment in the future.

6. Bicycle Master Plan

7. Neighborhood Health Station

8. Workforce Training Equipment

Chairman Lester asked if the possibility existed to increase the \$10,000 request.

Director Friedrichs informed that that amount was what the subrecipient had asked for.

9. Workplace ESOL Classes

Chairman Lester asked if this institution also provided Spanish classes for those who do not speak this language.

Peter Friedrichs stated that he did not have information to that effect, but that CCRI provides said classes. Mr. Friedrichs will follow up on the Chairman's question.

10. Tenant Education Curriculum

11. Housing Rehabilitation

12. Our Safe Home

Chairman Lester expressed that more funding should be available for this program.

Director Friedrichs explained that he wished there was more funding available in the CDBG application, but the City had to prioritize funding. This is an activity that was unable to be fully included in the application.

13. Project Renew

14. Pawtucket Soup Kitchen

As final comments, Chairman Lester appreciated the great amount of hard work put into this application by Director Freidrichs.

Secretary Moore asked Mr. Friedrichs to list new categories to the Application that are significantly different from past years.

Director Freidrichs stated that previous applications are publicly available and that he would share with the Board past CDBG Applications. To reference Secretary Moore's question, the Park Safety and Security activity continues the City's efforts to improve community parks. Nuisance Property Enforcement expands upon efforts of the Mayor's Nuisance Property Task Force. Closing Cost Assistance and Home Ownership Program support City efforts to promote homeownership, expanding upon the Home Repair Program that is part of Program Year 2014. The Bicycle Master Plan is in response to grants that have been received in the community and the need

to have a comprehensive plan for increasing bicycle infrastructure in response to grants we are receiving. Neighborhood Health Station is a City-led endeavor, in cooperation with the Former Health Secretary, that has incredible opportunity for the city. The remaining items are similar to ones included in past applications. Public Services were not funded by the state

Chairman Lester asked if there were items that were applied for but not included in the CDBG Application.

Mr. Friedrichs informed that there were three items that were not included in this year's application. A proposal for a Bicycle lane on Broad Street prompted the application for a Bicycle Master Plan, in the same amount. The other two proposed activities not included in the application were from the YWCA. The first requested a \$50,000 grant to restore the exterior of one of their historic Sarah Francis Grant Homestead. The Department felt other means of funding should be explored. The other proposed activity was to provide health services to young women and we feel that the Neighborhood Health Station would do some comprehensive thinking, along with the Health Equity Zone, to find the best activities to address health disparities in low- and moderate-income persons.

Chairman Lester asked how the process works if someone is looking to be included in this Application.

After the State announces the program year application, there is a two month application process. Two public hearings have to be held, the first announces the application to the community, providing an opportunity and path to be included in the application, (this year's was held on August 11th), and the second announces the City's proposed application and provides the opportunity for the community to comment (this year's was held on September 21st). Comments are taken into account before the final application is developed.

Mr. Friedrichs informed the Board that in order for it to be possible to submit this application, the Planning Board needs to certify that the application is not in conflict with the Comprehensive Community Plan. A memo has been provided to the Board providing citations for each activity that it is in compliance with the Comprehensive Community Plan.

Ms. Baena motioned to certify the application is not in conflict with the Comprehensive Community Plan.

Secretary Moore seconded the motion.

Chairman Lester, Ms. Baena, Secretary Moore, yes.

Vote carries.

b. Officer's Report

Director Friedrichs informed the Board that he has hired new Assistant Director for Architecture and Redevelopment Rui Almeida, who is working on the 430 Pine Street Development with the Board and making good progress. The applicant asked for a continuance prior to the last Board meeting in order to prepare more material. There was no quorum at said

meeting, and new issues of notices will be necessary to schedule a new hearing for that proposal.

Mr. Friedrichs asked Board to think about idea regular time to schedule monthly meetings.

Mr. Friedrichs announced that Ms. Leslie Moore is the new Board Member, and now elected Secretary.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Baena motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Secretary Moore seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Planning Board meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Friedrichs

Director

Department of Planning and Economic Development