

CRHA Redevelopment Committee Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2009
South First St. Community Center

Present: Dave Norris, Joy Johnson, Justin Walton, John Conover, Edith Good, Jason Halbert, Paul Vaughan, Karen Shepard, Emily Dreyfus, Hosea Mitchell, Randy Bickers, Amy Kilroy, Kathy Galvin, Deirdre Gilmore, Latita Owens

Summary of topics/action items discussed:

1. Staff update on current projects –
 - RFP – negotiations update
 - Resident outreach on Redevelopment
 - Trips to visit other redeveloped Housing Authorities – Hagerstown, MD
 - Youth Initiative Subcommittee

2. Other Business –
 - Catalyst Grant application
 - LIHEAP funding application
 - Stimulus application(s)

Recommendations:

- Staff will bring a drafted Marketing Strategy to the April meeting for discussion.

Minutes:

- Meeting began with a round of introductions of everyone at the table.
- Minutes of the February 10th meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Amy gave a brief update on staff activities:
 1. RFP negotiations update – Staff are still in negotiations with the lead Master Planning firm. Some changes that we are working on incorporating include: separate meetings with our youth; timeline has been extended from 4 to 6 months in length; they will send us examples of other master plans they have done for communities; and we will be adding more meetings and time to take care of phases 2 and 3.

There was a discussion about the menu of other options we could add to our master plan. We will revisit the list to see if want to include anything else within our scope that will not add too much extra cost. The City is advertising a housing planner position that will require the individual to have previous financial experience which could be helpful to our efforts.
 2. Resident outreach on redevelopment – No new updates on the outreach front at this time. A community meeting was added to the rotation over at Riverside Ave. It will follow the Resident Services meeting there.

Suggestions were made about combining the redevelopment updates with the Resident Services agenda to not have folks sit through two separate meetings. Also, now that the weather is getting warmer, staff should be able to do more door knocking to broaden the

types of outreach going on. There was also discussion about getting the master planning meetings on Channel 10 and creating a comprehensive Marketing Strategy for increasing the visibility of our process.

Each of the redevelopment meetings counts towards community service hours as does resident participation on the field trips. Also we should think about how many people we want to be reaching through our efforts – what is the number for when we will feel satisfied?

3. Trips to visit other Housing Authorities – Several members of the redevelopment committee that went on the trip to Hagerstown offered their comments on what they saw and lessons they learned through Hagerstown's process. Pictures of the trip are available for anyone who wants to see them.

The next trip will be to the DC / Alexandria, VA area to visit their Housing Authorities. Dates will be sent around to see when people can make the trip in April. More information will be released as soon as it is available. Also, staff will be trying to set up some local trips to view projects in our community that may help generate ideas for what we want.

4. Youth Initiatives & Redevelopment – Our Youth subcommittee met at the end of February to determine what direction it was going to take. We want to make sure that we are not duplicating efforts taking place within the community already. Staff will set up a meeting of service providers to help learn about what the existing efforts are. We will also be reaching out to youth in the City and CRHA community centers to start getting their attention about the opportunities that are forthcoming.

Need to articulate what the goals and outcomes of the Youth Council will be before we can start attracting youth to want to participate. That can happen as part of the marketing strategy. Also don't want to have everything figured out so that when the youth do get to the table they can come with their own ideas and opportunities for suggestions. Staff will also coordinate with PHAR to make sure there are complimentary efforts going on. Tie it into the City's Summer Internship Program too.

City Council is giving the schools funding to hire a Youth Programs Coordinator which will be able help get this initiative off the ground as well. Kathy is meeting with the superintendent to learn more about what this program has in store and what the Coordinator's responsibilities will be.

- Other Business updates:

1. Catalyst Grant application – The Housing Authority is putting together a grant application to the Charlottesville Albemarle Community Foundation (CACF) for a \$75,000 Catalyst Grant to help support the Master Planning and redevelopment efforts. The Pre-application is due March 13th and we will hear back in mid-April if we are selected to move on to the final round.
2. LIHEAP funding application – The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is a program funded by the state to provide funding for low and moderate income families to make weatherization and energy-efficiency improvements to their homes.

A local weatherization non-profit organization, The Community Energy Conservation Program (CECP), is receiving five times their annual allocation of LIHEAP funding through the Stimulus package and will need help spending the funds.

Jason is working with folks from CECP and representatives at the state level to ensure that we, as a Housing Authority, can be eligible to use those funds to make improvements on our properties. If allowed to receive and use the funds, we will be able to supplement the work being done with our capital funds to make further improvements. It may also be an opportunity for residents to receive training and jobs to help do this work (either as part of the VIEW program or as community service hours).

3. Stimulus applications – The Housing Authority currently has two applications in for consideration for stimulus funding. One is directly from CRHA for \$150,000 to assist in our Master Planning efforts. The other one is a line-item in the City's overall application. The City has asked for \$35 million dollars on our behalf to support our larger redevelopment efforts. No word yet on when we will hear if we are receiving any of those funds.

The question was raised as to whether we could use stimulus funds for increasing the level of services provided at our sites (opening the community centers for longer hours, chemical-dependency counseling, GED programs)? Our understanding of the funding is that right now we can only use it for capital projects.

- Future Agenda items:

1. Draft of the Marketing Strategy
2. Report on Section 3 opportunities
3. NLIHC Conference – April 19th – 22nd

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 10:00 am in the South First St. Community Center.