

MINUTES

NEW ALBANY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The regular meeting of the New Albany Redevelopment Commission was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in the Assembly Room, City-County Building, New Albany, Indiana.

Commission Members Present: Irving Joshua, President
Adam Dickey, Vice President

Commission Members Absent: Edward Hancock, Secretary
Dan Coffey
John Gonder

Staff Members Present: David Duggins, Director
Trent Baker, Economic Development Office
Jessica Campbell, Public Facilities Specialist (PFS)
Robin King, Neighborhood Initiatives Assistant (NIA)
Brad Ramsey, Concentrated Code Enforcement Officer

Others Present: Meribeth Adams Wolf, Our Place Drug and Alcohol Education Services
Deb Bulleit, Freedom 101
Michael Gardner, New Directions Housing Corporation
Christine Harbison, Hope Southern Indiana
Diane Harris, Open Door Youth Services
Joe LaRocca, Southern Indiana YMCA
Christie McCravey, Louisville Urban League
Linda Reynolds, Hope Southern Indiana
Jim Silliman, Jacobi, Toomes & Lanz
Daniel Suddeath, News and Tribune
Larry Summers, City Engineer
Kathy Wilkerson, New Albany Parks Department

The President called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. Roll was called. Mr. Hancock, Mr. Coffey, and Mr. Gonder were absent.

The first item of business was **Comments from the Public**. The President noted that there were none.

The first item of new business was **Public Information Meeting regarding the FY2015-FY2019 Five-Year Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan and FY2015 One-Year Action Plan**. The President read aloud the prepared statement regarding the purpose of the meeting, and opened the floor to those interested in requesting assistance from the Redevelopment Commission.

Christine Harbison, from Hope Southern Indiana, requested funding for the FY2015 Pack the Bus program. This program provides a back pack filled with school supplies to nearly 3,000 children in the City of New Albany and Floyd County who qualify for the free lunch program. Ms. Harbison explained

that the program is a collaboration of over 40 other agencies that provide financial and in-kind donations. Ms. Harbison requested \$5,000 for the FY2015 Pack the Bus program.

Michael Gardner, of New Directions Housing Corporation, requested funding in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the FY2015 Emergency Repair program, and \$10,000.00 for the FY2015 Repair Affair program. Mr. Gardner explained that the Emergency Repair program focuses on needed urgent repairs that affect health and safety. He explained that the clients must qualify for the program, and the work is generally prioritized by first qualified, first served. Emergency cases are prioritized by need. Mr. Gardner stated that New Directions and the City of New Albany have worked together for many years on these programs. He stated that in FY2013, New Directions served 22 low income residents, but a decrease in funding only allowed for 8 residents to be served in FY2014, approximately 1/3 of those requesting assistance. The President asked the average cost of repairs. Mr. Gardner stated that the average is \$2,500.00 to \$3,500.00, and the cap is \$7,500.00 per homeowner. Mr. Gardner stated that the Repair Affair program is ^{an} one-day blitz in the summer that focuses on minor repair/maintenance for the elderly and disabled. The work is done by community volunteers. The Director stated that the Repair Affair generally leverages the CDBG dollars five to one.

Joe LaRocca, Chief Executive Officer, Southern Indiana YMCA requested funding in the amount of \$26,000.00 for the Building Assets for New Albany Youth Program. Mr. LaRocca explained that the YMCA, Open Door Youth Services, and Our Place Drug and Alcohol Education Services are a consortium of agencies that has been providing educational ^{and} afterschool activities for the children of New Albany for 8 years. He explained that 83% of the students ^{whose} ~~these~~ agencies serve through this program are from very low income families, and giving the children a safe place to go after school greatly helps working families. He explained that the three agencies provided a very structured environment where kids are taught the skills needed to keep them on track to succeed in life. Mr. Dickey asked if the increase in the funding request was due to increase in services or an increase in operating cost. Mr. LaRocca responded that it was due to an increase in operating costs.

Christine McCravey, Housing Director of the Louisville Urban League, requested \$2,500.00 to provide the required HUD approved pre- and post-purchase homeownership counseling to first-time homebuyers. Ms. McCravey described the various aspects of the program. She explained that the classes would cost \$250, with the client paying \$50, and the remaining amount covered by CDBG funds. The President questioned if the \$50 fee would present too much of a hardship for the clients. Ms. McCravey responded that her experience has shown that expecting the clients to contribute early fosters a sense of investment, and has been shown to increase participation.

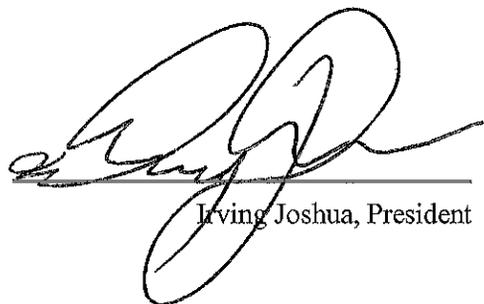
Kathy Wilkerson, Recreation Director of the New Albany Parks Department, requested \$30,000.00 to continue providing safe, organized activities for over 300 children. Ms. Wilkerson discussed the many life skills the children learn from these programs, including goal setting, how to handle money, and interpersonal skills.

Deb Bulleit, Harrison Literacy and Education Program, requested funding in the amount of \$5,000.00 to present the Freedom 101 recidivism reduction program in the Floyd County Jail. Ms. Bulleit explained the benefits of the program, and provided a letter of support from Captain Wheeler. Ms. Bulleit requested funding for 8 classes for FY2015. The President asks if data regarding the effectiveness of the program is

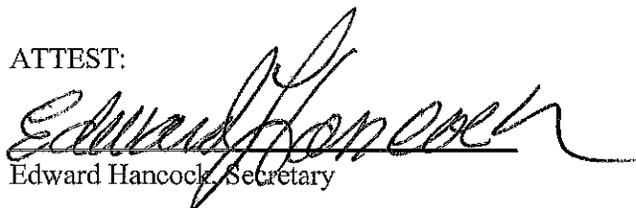
available. Ms. Bulleit stated that it is generally recommended that data be measured 3 years post release, but Floyd County Jail does not track. She provided a study conducted by Indiana Department of Corrections that reflected a 50% reduction for women at the Madison state prison, and a letter from the Floyd County Sherriff speaking on the popularity of the program with the inmates.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Approved and Adopted this 14th day of April, 2015.



Irving Joshua, President

ATTEST:

Edward Hancock, Secretary