

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

December 10, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Marcella Barnett, Lynn Bittel, Fumnanya Camara, Vince Chowdhury, Teri Marquantte, Hayley Reddish, and Catalina Vielma.

Members Absent: *Bill Moran, *Jason Schneider, Michael Thomas, and *Charlene Wisner-Howard.

*Excused

Late Arrivals/

Early Departures: Catalina Vielma.

Staff Present: Barbara Abbotts, Aimee Bart, and Michael Lawson.

Guests Present: None.

Chairperson Lynn Bittel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

- Fumnanya Camara motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Teri Marquantte seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- Marcella Barnett motioned to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting as presented. Teri Marquantte seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Communications from Staff

a. **CD Manager Updates – Michael Lawson, Interim Manager**

Michael Lawson presented the following updates to the Committee.

- The new Community Development Manager, Jessica Prosser, will be joining our team effective next Wednesday. She comes to us from Arvada with a background in CDBG and strategic planning for housing needs.
- Linda Savage's nomination to serve on the Committee will go to City Council Study Session December 16, 2019. It will move forward to formal City Council on January 6th. If all goes well, she will be able to begin work for the Committee immediately after approval, prior to her formal swearing in.
- Staff is working on a policy regarding allocation of Private Activity Bonds including researching how it has been used in the past and how other jurisdictions use their bond cap. In the past, only one entity has ever requested the allocation; this year, we have received multiple inquiries for it. While the actual allocation amount has not been announced as of yet, we expect our bond cap to be close to \$20,000,000.

- The contract with the Aurora Housing Authority has been drafted for our Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program. This should result in approximately 20 families experiencing homelessness being housed in 2020.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members' questions.

b. Foreclosure Update – Barbara Abbotts, HOAP Supervisor

Barbara Abbotts provided the Committee with a handout regarding foreclosure data requested at the previous meeting. The data encompassed three years of foreclosure numbers, the number of foreclosure counseling sessions conducted by staff, and foreclosure postcards sent to clients facing foreclosure. From January 2017 – December 2019, 130 properties have been foreclosed in Arapahoe and Adams County. In 2017, 298 postcards were mailed out (only properties within Aurora were sent postcards) and 41 clients sought assistance from Community Development, 29 of which were Aurora properties. In 2018, 489 postcards were mailed out (encompassing all of Arapahoe and Adams counties regardless of Aurora address) and 66 clients sought assistance, 50 of which were Aurora properties. In 2019 (through December 3, 2019), 489 postcards were mailed out (encompassing all of Arapahoe and Adams counties regardless of Aurora address) and 61 clients sought assistance, 32 of which were Aurora properties. The handout also provided mapping data of foreclosures shown by Ward.

It was discussed that the change from mailing postcards to mailing more private letters to individuals facing foreclosure would hopefully increase the number of individuals seeking assistance through us.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members' questions.

c. Loan Write-Offs – Aimee Bart, Administrative Specialist

Aimee Bart reported that there were no loan write-offs for the month of November 2019.

During the month of November 2019, \$28,825.12 in Program Income was received.

Program	Income	Year to Date Income
HOME	\$19,413.21	\$1,079,263.76
CDBG	\$9,411.91	\$113,222.56
NSP1	\$0.00	\$0.00
NSP3	\$0.00	\$7,153.68
AVAILABLE UNCOMMITTED FUNDS FOR NEW PROJECTS (APPROXIMATE):		
HOME	\$1,800,000.00	
CDBG	\$140,000.00	

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members' questions.

d. Update of Chairs Vision for Committee Member Briefings at future meetings – Aimee Bart, Administrative Specialist

Aimee Bart reminded the Committee of the previous meetings discussion regarding Committee Member Briefings requested by the Chair. Presentations are expected to begin in

January 2020 and last through the year accounting for no member presentations during the months of May, June, July, and August. There will be an electronic sign-up sheet using SignUpGenius going to them via e-mail. Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes. Lynn Bittel, Chairperson, elaborated on what he would like to see from these briefings. Members are requested to present on their background, experiences, expertise and what each person brings to the Committee. He feels strongly that by doing this, the Committee will be able to tackle more issues with better information.

Communications from Committee

- a. Catalina Vielma announced her pregnancy with a due date in mid-March. The Committee congratulated her. She informed the Committee that she will likely miss the March meeting and will be playing the following 2-3 meetings by ear. The Committee agreed that at this point, taking a leave of absence would not be necessary. It was requested that she present her briefing as early in 2020 as possible since she has a high level of knowledge to bring. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment

- Marcella Barnett motioned and Catalina Vielma seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes taken by:

Aimee Bart
Aimee Bart, Administrative Specialist

Minutes reviewed by:

Michael Lawson 12/26/19
Michael Lawson, Interim Manager,
Community Development Division

Minutes approved by:

Lynn Bittel 1/14/2020
Date