

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TELECONFERENCE
May 11, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: LaQunya Baker, Marcella Barnett, Lynn Bittel, Jaime Carolina, Teri Marquante, Bill Moran, Britany Noble, Hayley Reddish and Charlene Wisner-Howard

Members Absent: Vince Chowdhury*, Demetra English*, Erica Howard*, Jason Schneider*
***Excused**

**Late Arrivals/
Early Departures:** Charlene Wisner-Howard *(excused)

Staff Present: Traci Burton, Jeff Hancock, Rodney Milton, Brittany McGaughy, Jessica Prosser, Mattye Sisk

Guests Present:

Roll Call

Chairperson Teri Marquante called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and roll call followed.

Approval of Agenda

Lynn Bittel motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Bill Moran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Marcella Barnett requested to have her name corrected on Members Absent from April 13th, 2021 minutes. Bill Moran motioned to approve the minutes of the April 13th, 2021 meeting as presented. Lynn Bittel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Committee Member Briefings - open

Teri Marquante introduced the three new members LaQunya Baker, Jaime Carolina and Britany Noble. Each individual introduced themselves to the committee.

Communications from Staff

a. CD Manager Updates – Rodney Milton, Manager

- **Housing Strategy Update**

Rodney reviewed the three working groups in Housing Strategy which are the People working group, Places and Process working group and Production and Preservation working group. Each group is contributing to the City of Aurora strategic planning effort

and all the departments within the city are moving through a strategic process of identifying vision statements, goals and objectives with themes like thriving and engagement. Rodney explained also explained we will be rebranding GAP Financing into Community Investment. Rodney also mentioned that the housing strategy groups will be identifying different actions, different tactics and performance measures.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **COVID response updates- Rental Assistance update**

Rodney provided an update on rental assistance. The City of Aurora has provided over 800 households with rental assistance since June 19, 2020, when the first assistance check was issued. We have received additional funds and the state of Colorado will be serving as a central repository for all the applications coming from Aurora and other municipalities. We will be withholding some funds for repeat needs for residents.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **CDBG CV-Recommendation Update**

Rodney provided an update regarding the CDBG CV recommendation. Rodney stated that three agreements went to council and two of those did not need counsel approval to be executed. We'll be managing all the awardees that receive funds. These awardees are doing a lot of the work already and so we'll be reimbursing them for the funding and activities that they've done.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **Gap Financing Release**

Rodney explained the GAP Financing will be opening a second round on May 17th, 2021. Rodney reminded the group of the rebranding of GAP Financing to Community Investment. This particular round will be inclusive of a lot of other funding streams to include private activity bonds, HOME and CDBG funds. Rodney also asked for volunteers to join the application evaluation group to help decide on funding.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **Homelessness Update**

Jessica Prosser provided an update on homelessness. Jessica reminded those of the Alternative Sheltering Options event. Brittany McGaughy emailed the group the electronic flyer of this event. Jessica stated that there is some additional federal funding that we will be receiving. HUD Home will be providing us with \$4.2 million dollars in funds. Jessica also mentioned the Department of Treasury has issued \$72 million dollars to city. Jessica advised Council is interested in using these funds for housing related projects. One of the ideas we are thinking about is related to alternative options for sheltering would be for a permanent shelter space. Other ideas for sheltering include safe outdoor camping, safe parking for those who have a vehicle, tiny home and pallet shelter. Jessica also advised that examples of these sheltering options will be on displayed at the Alternative Sheltering Options event on May 19th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Restoration Christian Fellowship Church located off 6th and Chambers Road. This event we have reached out to the faith

community, community leaders, neighbors, residents, everyone to come out to see these options and possibly provide us some feedback. We are looking to engage with all Aurora with this event along with more engagement opportunities to come. Jessica also mentioned the opportunity for the group to check out Engage Aurora. Jessica explained this platform will be used for interacting with the community, community engagement events and opportunities.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **Housing 101– “Affordable Housing” vs “Housing Affordability”**
Rodney presented information regarding affordable housing and housing affordability. Rodney explained the term “Affordable” housing is a general term used by people to describe housing that is priced reasonably in the context of relating to a person’s lifestyle, income and market options. He also explained that Affordable with a capital “A” is housing created in partnership with local and nation government agencies such as U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Rodney provided the group with the link: localhousingsolutions.org/learn that is a great resource for questions regarding housing, jargon, and programs pertaining to housing. Rodney also provided another link: enterprisecommunity.org another good resource for all things housing.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- b. **Loan Write-Offs – Jeff Hancock, Financial Supervisor**
Jeff Hancock presented the Write-off report.

Communications from Committee

- None.

Adjournment

- Marcella Barnett motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bill Moran seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Brittany McGaughy 09/01/2021
Brittany McGaughy Date
Administrative Specialist
Housing and Community Services Department

Minutes reviewed by: Rodney M. Milton, Jr. 09/01/2021
Rodney Milton, Manager Date
Community Development Division

Minutes approved by:


Teri Marquante, Chairperson

9/1/2021
Date