



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
February 13, 2018
MINUTES**

Members Present

Dan Witcher, Chairman
Ron Crockett
Spence Flagg
Sid Oakley
Chase Mitchell

Members Absent

Todd Dolehanty, Vice Chairman
Ella Kane
Marjorie Tester
Tiffany Walden

Others Present

Brian Rose, Staff
Christina Blevins, Staff
Maggie Bishop, Speaker

Call to Order & Roll Call:

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) meeting was called to order February 13, 2018, at 5:35 p.m. at the City Hall Annex by Chairman Dan Witcher.

Dan asked the committee if there were any changes to the agenda presented. None being heard, Dan continued the meeting.

Dan welcomed Maggie Bishop to the CDAC meeting.

Approval of Minutes, January 9, 2018, Meeting:

Dan Witcher asked for any changes or corrections to the January 9, 2018 meeting minutes. None being heard, Sid Oakley moved the minutes be approved as presented; seconded by Chase Mitchell; motion carried unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKER – Maggie Bishop, Believe in Bristol

Maggie Bishop thanked the CDAC. She then described Believe in Bristol (BIB) as the Downtown Main Street Program for both Tennessee and Virginia and presented a PowerPoint describing the Mission & Vision of the organization, the Main Street four-point approach and what's currently going on downtown in greater detail. Maggie discussed that BIB is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization and identified the grant funds that the organization had been awarded over the past 11 years. Maggie highlighted the Downtown Bristol Entrepreneurial Grant, PUSH! Film Festival and several other events the organization participants in throughout the year. She added that Believe in Bristol had seen over \$40 million in public and private investment, 390 new jobs, 50+ new lofts, 55 new and sustaining businesses, and downtown was experiencing the lowest vacancy rate of 10.5% (average of both TN & VA) in approximately 30 years. Maggie

finished up statistics noting that BIB had over 38,000 volunteer hours and according to Google a volunteer hour is worth \$24.14 per hour, worth over \$900,000 in time donated to the organization.

Maggie ended her presentation with discussion on several future projects; trees downtown, First Friday's in downtown, three new hotels opening soon, Passenger Rail possibilities, new exhibits at the Birthplace of County Music Museum and ways everyone could get involved with BIB.

Maggie took questions from the group and challenged CDAC to support local.

Old Business:

CDBG & HOME Consortium Projects - Christina handed out the January 2018 monthly report for the group to review as if applied to both CDBG and HOME Consortium projects. She noted that the program has a pre-bid meeting scheduled for February 15, 2018 for two potential demolition projects and the actual bid opening would be the following week. Christina stated she was hoping to close out a coupe emergency rehab projects for CDBG in the following week. Christina stated that she and Donna Lewis from the First Tennessee Development District did a CHDO monitoring visit the week of February 5th, 2018 last with Horizon CDC as Horizon was awarded funding from the program. Christina added that HUD required the HOME program to give a minimum of 15% of total allocation to an approved CHDO organization. The Home Consortium Board paired the last two years of CHDO allocation for a larger rental rehabilitation project presented by Horizon CDC in Sullivan County, the affordability period for rental rehabilitation in the HOME program was 20 years and therefore staff will monitor this rental project for 20 years to confirm they are meeting HUD guidelines such as rental rates and utility payments. Christina added that staff completed two drawdowns and had started working with Appalachia Service Project (ASP) to try and help three families currently on the CDBG wait list.

2018-2019 HUD Grant Allocations and Action Plan – Christina stated that staff did not know the amount of allocation or if any allocation would be given to either programs at this time.

CDBG Project Discussion for FY'19 Budget - Christina mentioned that staff had already started working on the City's budget for next fiscal year, July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. She added that with CDAC's permission staff would like to go ahead and prepare the annual action plan based on the same activities as this current year; i.e. YWCA Childcare Center for Public Services, Rehab/Reconstruction, Demolition, Sidewalks and Admin.

Dan asked if anything further with ARCH and the AmeriCorps volunteers had transpired. Christina responded that Brian had added two part-time AmeriCorps members into the Community Development budget; however that doesn't mean they will be approved as City Council would make those final decisions. Christina stated that staff had attended several meetings that solidify why the need for outreach support and services in Bristol were needed and that the AmeriCorps members were greatly needed to coordinate services and housing entry for those needing help. In addition, Brian noted the AmeriCorps members would also be tracking how many they help with services.

Christina mentioned that CDBG owns a small house on Columbia Road, staff is looking at

selling the home and the proceeds from the sale would come back to the CDBG program as Program Income which would be applied to eligible CDBG activities.

New Business:

CDAC Terms & Recruitment – Christina stated that several CDAC members terms were coming up April 30, 2018, Ron Crockett, Spence Flagg and Sid Oakley. She hopes that they will reapply for the committee or recruit members for this committee.

Other Matters:

Group had general discussion on parking downtown, the 200 State Street building and promotion of local business.

Announcements & Adjournment:

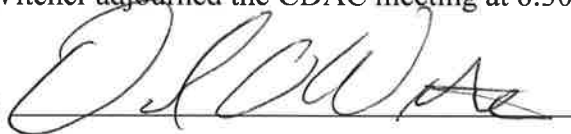
Dan Witcher added that the next CDAC meeting was scheduled for March 13, 2018.

Christina Blevins invited the CDAC to the next Poverty Simulation on March 8th, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.


Christina Blevins also announced the latest YWCA fundraiser, OVER THE EDGE challenge.

There being no other announcements, Dan Witcher adjourned the CDAC meeting at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVED:



Dan Witcher, Chair



Christina Blevins, Recorder