



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
January 8, 2019
MINUTES**

Members Present

Dan Witcher, Chairman
Ron Crockett
Vernon Perry
Marjorie Tester
Steve Willinger

Members Absent

Spence Flagg
Todd Dolehanty
Ella Kane
Chase Mitchell

Others Present

Brian Plank, Guest Speaker
Christina Blevins, Staff

I. Call to Order & Roll Call:

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) meeting was called to order on January 8, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex by Chairman Dan Witcher.

Christina Blevins noted the members present/absent above, Dan also mentioned that a quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes, November 13, 2018 Meeting:

Dan Witcher asked for any changes or corrections to the minutes. No changes or corrections were needed. Ron Crockett made a motion to approve the November 13, 2018 meeting minutes as presented, Vernon Perry seconded the motion, and all present were in favor.

III. Guest Speaker, Brian Plank, Executive Director of the Haven of Rest Rescue Mission

Dan welcomed Brian Plank as speaker. Brian gave a brief history on the Haven of Rest Mission including that they just started their 64th year! Brian added that the Haven of Rest has continued to grow year after year and they are currently housing approximately 64 individuals. He handed out a pamphlet that discusses each of the ministries the Haven offers including The Haven of Rest, The Lighthouse, Family Housing, The Grace Home, Nightly Community Meal, The Food Pantry, Bennett Chapel, Infant Ministry, Haven Recycle and The Thrift Store. Brian explained that the facility is a safe and drug free environment where their residence basic needs can be met and are provided case management to help match services and professional help for specific needs. Brian discussed that individuals can stay for up to 60 days, he then went into more detail on how individuals programs work.

Brian added that the Haven does police and background checks on each person who wishes to stay on property. Brian noted that the staff is working on a new 2019 initiative focusing on those released on probation from the State of Virginia. Virginia only allows released probationary individuals to stay out of State for a maximum of 45 days. The Haven of Rest is working with the probationary officers to possibly extend that time frame or the Haven is considering the purchase of a home on the Virginia side of town. The Haven wishes to continue the process of working with probationary individual's as they are in need of the life skills and financial coaching the Haven offers. Brian added that they recently received a grant from The United Companies Foundation to help with that initiative, more to come soon.

Brian mentioned the Bristol Day Center proposal that was distributed to the community. He discussed that the residents for the Haven are asked to volunteer on location or seek employment, participants are kept busy and don't cause problems with the community. The component that bothers Brian the most is mental health. Brian gave examples of how the Haven has tried to help those with mental illness and the processes that people are having to go through to get help. Brian spoke with Roger Leonard, who is helping to spearhead the Bristol Day Center and they both feel this is a top priority.

Brian added that The Haven of Rest is a working mission and most people that stay there are usually from within a 100 mile radius from Bristol, they do not get a lot of transients. He added that even though they have chapel services available, they could really use local churches to take individuals in...put people into a supportive culture where they can move forward in their life and give them a little love.

Brian thanked the committee for allowing him the opportunity to speak.

The committee thanked Brian and the Haven of Rest for their dedication to those less fortunate in our community.

IV. Old Business:

CDBG & HOME Consortium Project Update - Christina presented the December 2018 monthly report for both CDBG and HOME projects. She pointed out a couple highlights from the report including the completion of several Section 3 reports for HUD. She added that Lindsey Muller our ARCH AmeriCorps intern is out for holiday, but will be back next week. Lindsey's schedule includes the Bristol Public Library on Monday and the Haven or rest on Tuesday's between 10 am – 4pm. Christina also discussed the potential of The Bristol Day Center, she handed out the proposal and asked the group to give input at the upcoming community forums on January 30, 2019, forums are scheduled for noon and 6:00 p.m. that day. Christina also added that a potential location for the Day Center has been discussed but nothing has been confirmed. Christina reported that the rehabilitation of the properties located at 236 Taylor Street was completed and 108 Elm Street was in the final phases. The demolition at 408 Pennsylvania Ave was also completed with CDBG funding. She added that progress continues on a reconstruction located at 1707 Georgia Avenue, Christina intends this reconstruction to be paid for with CDBG and HOME Consortium funding and a pre-bid meeting has been scheduled for the end of January.

Neighborhood Grant Award Update – Christina gave a brief update on the Neighborhood Grant Award, as she has been in contact with Chelsea Goulding from Appalachian Sustainable Development. Chelsea mentioned that the sign is still underway and they have completed most

of the additional labor to complete the project on time. Christina states that she would ask Chelsea to present a full update to the committee in February.

V. New Business:

CDBG Project Discussion for FY 2020 (City Budget) and 2019 (HUD Program year) -

Christina mentioned that it was time to starting thinking about our Action Plan for next year. She discussed the percent for administration and public services. Christina noted that she is unaware of any allocation amount at this time. Members of the committee voiced that they were happy with how we are using the CDBG public service funding and continuing work on the Action Plan with keeping a top priority as rehabilitation.

The committee discussed the current Action Plan and Christina gave an estimate that she is on track to spend approximately \$220,000 this year.

Dan noted that he would be happy to speak on behalf of the CDAC as needed.

VI. Other Matters:

Christina invited the committee to attend a Community Forum on January 30, 2019 at noon or 6:00 p.m. for the potential Bristol Day Center.

Christina also mentioned that ARCH will conduct the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count January 23 & 24, 2019.

VII. Announcements & Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2019.

APPROVED:



Dan Witcher, Chair


Christina Blevins, Recorder