



COMMUNITY LIFE COMMISSION MINUTES

Date: January 14, 2019
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall

PRESENT: Chair Swayze
Commissioners (8): Bryne, Hall, Keeler, Scriber and Hillson

OTHERS PRESENT: Common Council Liaisons: Fleming and Lewis, Executive
Assistant Hallett-Harris

EXCUSED: McClinsey & Bakhle

ABSENT: Hagood

Meeting called to order: 6:02 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes: December 17, 2018 Minutes: 1st Scriber and 2nd
Hillman - all in favor with changes noted

Housing:

Anisa Mendisabal – Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency – HUD Entitlement Consolidated Planning Process – handout given and emailed to Jody for attachment to minutes. In 2004 Ithaca became an entitlement town. She explained various definitions of HUD and entitlement, assessment of fair housing, Obama Rule, affirmatively afford housing. Ithaca one of first 125 assessments. Discussion of consolidated action plan, definition of HOME = home investment, public service 15% most limited. Funding for low to moderate income people and immediate need (disasters, hurricanes). Funding level chart was shown and advised about requested need and what was actually given, \$1.2 million requests received, \$300,000.00 more requests received in 2018. Hoping to get more communities involved. Reviewed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - flexible funding, activities funding. Supportive services in housing, there is list on handout given and chart for low to moderate income for 2018, needs and ineligible activities were discussed. Anisa advised how to apply, all information is on the handout that was given and her business card was handed out to members. We can email Anisa directly for questions or further information. She advised that the government shut down did hamper and could further delay in future and 2018 funding still available.

CLC Questions:

How can CLC support? Anica advised they want input from us and to forward high priority needs to Anisa directly. Discussed community art funding and what is ineligible art – community art project benefit low to moderate income families like Southside mural project – possibly the brackets for the mural may be eligible and Anisa has talked to Planning. Any agency can apply for funds and if they were not ready to use funds then funds can be applied for again or another agency can apply. Housing for disabilities

and other needs – removal of architecture barriers is eligible and organization can apply to do permanent homeowner rehabilitation - universal design or accessibility housing need or new housing that is accessible.

Common Council Liaison Lewis reminded members: Two things to keep in forefront of mind is priority of CLC identifies and in what ways this CLC assists with this work?

Youth:

GIAC – Kerry Phillips the Deputy Director, Lori & Tyler are current staff persons as well as kids from the Navigator Program, who gave presentation. Lori gave information regarding programming including double jump program, track & field, golf, soccer and many others. Always looking for collaboration for programming and currently have inter-generational program for 3 years going. Fingerlakes Running Club gave \$1000 award for programming. Quameek is President; Lamar is Vice President, JL is Secretary of Defense and Sandra is Treasurer. Advised of fundraisers for GIAC upcoming is dance for Valentine's Day in February. Kerry discussed the after school programs, there are currently five after school programs with 105 kids (Sept-June). Summer time there is approximately 160 kids and they hire both roster and seasonal employees for this. Youth Council is peer driven, 5th graders run for the spots, currently 12 kids and senate and constituents all participate. They have Community Week and invited members to come into GIAC, call ahead to set up date and time. Upcoming events: Spelling bee on April 26th; Little Sweetheart Dance for 4-12 year old girls with male role model on 2/23 at GIAC and any questions to Lori Herrington, MLK Breakfast Saturday 1/26 at BJM Elementary School, they need volunteers and can contact Lori, this is a full breakfast with all community members welcome and further information on the GIAC website. On 2/12 they will be having a talent show from 6-8:00, more info on Facebook page and also on their after school page, navigator and athletic program's Facebook pages.

Flag Flying Policy Review of policy and discussion of any changes or questions. Next step is it goes to the City Administration this is where this policy best rests. Chair to email to Dan and Deb ask for feedback and get feedback from City Admin.

Sustainability: Shopping Cart Subcommittee: Group to meet with Ducson.

Lime bikes/scooters – Scriber to contact Sarah Barden, Commissioner for Mobility, Accessibility & Transportation Commission– “MATCOM”.

Discussion regarding February 18th meeting and a vote was taken on who could attend on Thursday, 2/21 because of holiday. There was not enough for quorum so members agreed on having meeting on Monday, 2/25 instead in the 2nd Floor Conference Room.

February Agenda: Plastic Bag Ban, Thomas Shelley; Flag Flying Policy feeding back from Admin Committee; update from shopping cart committee; half- staff flag flying info to be shared prior to meeting from Melissa.

Discussion regarding possibility of having closed Facebook page, Caroline suggested – additional attachments and links to GIAC or IYB – have an easy flow of information – wanting to be able to get input from community and other commissions – good topic for

Lisa to take to chair meeting – something for all chairs to speak about – Ithaca committees Facebook page or possibly have update in Ithaca Times?

Kerry Phillips, GIAC and Liz Klohmann, IYB will be at monthly meetings to keep us updated and let us know what CLC can do to help.

Jody to check in with Anisa to see if she is coming to next meeting - Jody to email any info if it comes through.

Rusty - Cornell taxes – following up on letter – CLC push further? – Lisa stated that Dan stated not one committee can task this; Rusty asking about forum for public and for Cornell to defend statements in letter – possibly reach out to Mayor & Dan regarding whether this can or cannot be handled/responded to as a small group of the City. Invite Dan & Mayor to our meeting to discuss Cornell. Reports were done on this previously and Lisa to reach out to Dan.

City Admin meeting this Wednesday – Flag Flying Policy on Agenda and Lisa will email if someone needs to be here.

Next Meeting:

Monday, February 25, 2019, 6:00 p.m., 2nd Floor Conference Room – Jody to reserve room;

Adjournment:

On a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jody Hallett-Harris, Executive Assistant

Consolidated Planning Process

City of Ithaca HUD Entitlement Program

What is Con Planning?

- A strategic plan lasting 5 years
- New! Will include fair housing goals identified in AFH
- Discusses past performance
- Assesses current needs
- Prioritizes possible activities
- **The Con Plan is the big document, a roadmap. It guides the Annual Action Plans, provides framework for selecting proposals.**
 - Aaaaand... on January 8, 2019, we issued our 2019 Call for Proposals for Action Plan funding (also do be discussed).

Funding Streams: HOME & CDBG

- HOME must be used on affordable housing
- CDBG may be used for affordable housing, economic development public facilities or public services (15% cap)– *all must meet a National Objective*
 1. **Benefit to low/moderate income people or neighborhood**
 2. Removal of slum/blight
 3. Urgent need (i.e. post-natural disasters)

Snapshot: 2018 Funding Levels

How much funding *exclusively* for housing-related activities in 2018?

HOME = \$368,803

How much funding for other activities (including housing) in 2018:

CDBG = \$686,071

Funding Levels through the Years

PROGRAM YEAR	CDBG Award	HOME Award
2018	\$686,071	\$368,803
2017	\$644,410	\$275,651
2016	\$661,371	\$329,841
2015	\$671,646	\$368,661
2014	\$675,538	\$441,774
2013	\$715,930	\$465,241
2012	\$703,124	\$486,909
2011	\$742,713	\$508,879
2010	\$890,297	\$574,472

Anticipated Funding: 2019

	2017 Anticipated Award	2017 <u>Actual</u> Award	Anticipated (2018 <i>and</i>) 2019 Reduction	Anticipated <u>2019</u> Award
CDBG	661,371	\$644,410	1.66%	\$634,000
HOME	328,050	\$275,651	5.25%	\$261,000
Total	989,421	\$920,061	-	\$895,000

Low- to Moderate Income is based on Area Median Income (AMI)

FY 2018 Income Limit Area	Median Family Income Explanation	FY 2018 Income Limit Category	Persons in Family							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ithaca, NY MSA	\$89,000	Very Low (50%) Income Limits (\$) Explanation	29,500	33,700	37,900	42,100	45,500	48,850	52,250	55,600
		Extremely Low Income Limits (\$)* Explanation	17,700	20,200	22,750	25,250	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380
		Low (80%) Income Limits (\$) Explanation	47,150	53,900	60,650	67,350	72,750	78,150	83,550	88,950

Types of Housing Activities funded 2014-present

- Supportive services (subject to 15% cap)
- Security Deposit Assistance
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
- Rehabilitation of rental housing
- New construction of rental housing
- Ramping for accessibility
- Mini-repair for LMI homeowners
- Major repair i.e. roofing for LMI homeowners
- New construction of homebuyer housing

Examples of **Ineligible** Activities?

CDBG/HOME FUNDING CANNOT BE USED FOR:

- Projects that do not meet a National Objective
 - i.e. Acquisition of property for a project to benefit LMI people that is unfulfilled → money must be returned
 - i.e. Housing built for LMI people that is ultimately not utilized → money must be returned
- Buildings for the general conduct of government
- Cost of *operating* or *maintaining* public facilities or improvements
- Furnishings or equipment (except in very limited cases)

Current Additional or Unmet Needs

HOMELESS RESPONSE/PREVENTION

- Increase homeless/community mental health outreach team
- Increase Housing for School Success
- TBRA for Rapid Rehousing
- Staffing to facilitate Rapid Rehousing
- Low barrier shelter for those not currently being served
- New/expanded/higher capacity homeless shelter
- Set-aside units in affordable housing for various special needs

Current Additional or Unmet Needs (con't)

- Fair Housing education & enforcement
- Similar, but not the same
 - Landlord/Tenant Counseling
 - “Landlord Liaison”-type services
 - SOI Protection, meaningful protocol, and enforcement entity
- Anti-gentrification Ideas: Ways to assist LMI Homeowners

How to apply for 2019 HUD Funding!

Applications, instructions, schedules & deadlines, selection criteria available at our website! [This is the Annual Action Plan]

www.IthacaURA.org

New applicant? Set up a technical assistance meeting! Bring your ideas and let's discuss!

Amendizabal@cityofithaca.org

(607) 274 - 6553

What makes a strong application?

- Meets National Objective
- Demonstrates unmet local need & is a priority of Con Plan
- Impact: Results!
- Feasibility & Capacity: It's do-able by the proposer
- Leverage: Other funding streams or sustainability plan
- Coordinator: Partners!
- Promotion of Fair Housing: It addresses a Contributing Factor

Discussion

How and what
would you prioritize?

Discussion Points for City of Ithaca Advocacy Flag Flying Proposal

Principal Motivation

- Provide a fair and equal opportunity for all members of the community to freely express themselves on issues of personal significance through the use advocacy flags, as long as this flag does not represent a discriminatory ideology, or promote commercial interests, **political organizations**, or religious movements

Comment [SDH1]: This might need some tweaking/clarification. I think we want to keep open the possibility of groups flying flags related to political issues (for example if there are flags for increased voting rights or reduced corruption), but not the specific groups that work on these issues.

Policy Decisions from Community Life Commission Meeting August 2018

- 'Limited' policy selected by committee. This option means that Ithaca City Council will decide on a list of pre-approved flags, after which community members can request a flag be flown by filling out an application (to be developed, made available on city website) and submitting it to City Clerk at least 1 month before the dates for which the flag will be flown.

- Flag can be flown for minimum of 1 week, maximum of 1 calendar month; the same flag can only be flown once per year.

- Community members/groups can meet with council representatives to advocate for a flag to be added to the **list**.

Comment [SDH2]: Question arises of what if a legitimate, but controversial, request is made to council member and they don't want to add it to the list? Does this potentially introduce the possibility of legal action taken against the city?

- Flag(s) must be provided by the advocating group, so as not to appear as though the city is financially supporting the issue about which the flag advocates, and also so that the advocating group cannot complain that the flag does not meet their expectations (e.g., poor quality fabric, not big enough, etc.)

- Multiple flags can be provided and flown at any of the following locations, as chosen by the requesting group, but the flag should be the **appropriate size for the location**:

Comment [SDH3]: We should find out the appropriate sizes for each location and put this on the application.

City Hall

Cass Park

Stewart Park (Flag not flown in the winter)

Note 1: The Dewitt Park Flagpole will be reserved year-round for the POW/MIA flag as the park displays war memorials.

Note 2: There are five other flagpoles that fall under the City's jurisdiction: GIAC, Fire Dept., Police Dept., Youth Bureau, and Sewer & Water. These locations are not available for to public to request a flag be flown to avoid conflicts of interest with the organization at that location.

- After flag has been removed, the advocate who provided the flag must collect it from **City Hall** within one week after the flag has been taken down.

Comment [SDH4]: This means that flags flown at Cass or Stewart would need to be transported to City Hall are being taken down. Is this OK with facilities? We could also say that it must be picked up at location where it was flown, but the parks don't necessarily have offices that are staffed at all times.