

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO**

On the 12th day of May, 2011, the Community Development Advisory Committee met in a public hearing at 6:30pm. The hearing was held at the Downtown Library, 4th & Buchanan, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT TODAY	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE APPOINTMENT
ALLEN: James, Chairman	Yes	211	185
DAVIS: W. L. (Dub), Target Area	No	96	88
DUNN: Eddie, Target Area	Yes	20	14
GRISHAM: Glenda, NW Area	Yes	45	39
BANDY, Bill, SW Area	Yes	4	4
JONES: Thomas, NE Area	Yes	37	26
NELSON: Mary Jane, SE Area	Yes	4	4
PARR: Chuck, SW Area	Yes	9	7
RIVERA: Ruben, SE Area	Yes	33	29
SALDIERNA: Rita, NE Area	No	30	22
WHITAKER: Clem, NW Area	Yes	88	74

STAFF MEMBERS:

Donna Wickes, Administrator
 Patty Hamm, Housing Administrator
 Susan Barros, Program Coordinator
 Jesse Dorsey, Diana Lindvay, Recording Secretary

Citizens in Attendance: 22
 Media: 0

Chairman James Allen established a quorum, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and stated that the purpose of the committee was to be a liaison between the Community and the City Commission as to the best way to allocate Block Grant Funds each year. Chairman Allen explained the format of the meeting and informed all attending that a Speakers Request Form must be filled out before anyone not on the agenda to speak. Chairman Allen described the amount of funding available as that compares to the requested grants. There are about \$1,200,000 more in requests than in available funds. CDAC recommendations will be decided at June 7th meeting and approved funding announced by Commission at July 19th meeting.

Chairman Allen asked each committee and staff member to introduce themselves and what area that they represent.

ITEM 1: Consider project funding requests for the 2011-2012 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development using the following resources:

2011-2012 CDBG Community Development Block Grant	\$1,623,723
2011-2012 HOME Investment Partnership Program	\$ 888,065
CDBG Reallocation of Funds	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
	\$3,011,788

Maverick Boys & Girls Club, After School Services, Vic Allcorn, Executive Director, 1923 S. Washington -- \$52,000 -- explained request was for 22 additional after school places and **Summer Program, \$30,000**, was for 38 additional summer care places.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any committee comments.

Mary Jane Nelson asked about staff to youth ratio. Mr. Allcorn replied that there were 3 regular paid staff plus volunteers. Chuck Parr asked for clarification that these funds would be to create spaces for additional kids in the program and not for current expenses. Mr. Allcorn replied yes. James Allen said the financial statements provided show an increase in fixed assets from the previous request. Mr. Allcorn answered that there had been no increase, but would check with the accountant. Mr. Allen asked if there had been a staff cut since last year? Mr. Allcorn replied yes, from 5 to 3 staff members. Eddie Dunn asked what their relationship was with Kids Café. Mr. Allcorn said that they had partnered with High Plains Food Bank for one year and it has greatly increased their ability to provide meals for the kids. Mr. Allen wanted to know where was the clarification that these funds will be used for additional kids. Mr. Allcorn referred to page 6 of request. Mr. Allen asked if the organization was financially stable. Mr. Allcorn replied that fund raising has increased to improve stability and the bank balance has increased from \$30,000 to \$100,000. Chuck Parr asked how the cost per unit of service of proposed new services compare to previous years. Mr. Allcorn said he would find this information and report back to the Community Development Office. Mr. Allcorn added that services cost per unit is about ½ the national average of other clubs. Mr. Parr asked how does the cost compare to other local options. Mr. Allcorn said that the closest comparison of care can be made with Canyon After School, except they use the school buildings and have no overhead costs. Mr. Allen asked if they would provide per unit cost for last year. Mr. Allcorn said yes and would provide it to the Community Development Department.

No further comments from committee.

Panhandle Independent Living Center, ADA Renovation, Carl McMillen, 1118 S. Tyler -- \$24,480 – described agency and services. Joe Rogers, 1118 S. Tyler, explained their current facilities and the need for expansion and ADA accessibility remodeling and services offered by agency.

Chairman Allen asked there were any committee comments.

Glenda Grisham asked about other bids for the work to be done. Mr. McMillen explained that they will get multiple bids before work is done. Mr. Allen stated that the west parking lot had potholes and asked if this would be addressed. Mr. McMillen said not with this grant, but will be addressed in the future. Mr. Allen asked Donna Wickes if Building Safety would approve project without parking lot repairs. Donna Wickes said yes. Mr. Allen asked if the parking lot would be accessible. Mr. McMillen said that Phase One will be converting building to usefulness with this renovation. Additional phases will be necessary for us to get full use of this property and parking lot will be included in future work. We will assure that every visitor can access the building, including volunteers helping clients from vehicles into the building. Mr. Parr asked if the Downtown Design Standards affected this project. Ms. Wickes said that Kelly Shaw of Planning says that this project would not be affected by the standards because it is primarily interior renovation with only minor changes to front of the building. Mr. Allen asked what was the time frame for Phase One. Mr. McMillen said one year. Mr. Allen asked if they would be requesting additional grants for future work. Mr. McMillen said no other fund raising would be used to pay for the next phases.

No further comments from the committee.

Panhandle Regional Planning Commission Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle, Food NET, Stacey Urbanczyk, PO Box 9257 -- \$25,000 -- described FoodNET program and client survey results. Cindy Cure, PO Box 9257, told anecdotal stories about clients. Ms. Grisham asked how many days/weeks do your clients receive meals. Ms. Urbanczyk said one per day, six days a week plus a loaf of bread and a ½ gallon of milk. Ms. Grisham asked how many clients would be added with this funding. Ms. Urbanczyk answered will allow us to add 37 additional clients. Ms. Grisham asked if the total costs would be \$145,000 and how would someone find out about your services and apply for them. Ms. Urbanczyk said that it would service 120 clients and most clients find out by word-of-mouth, apply by phone which is followed up by a home visit for assessment. Thomas Jones wanted to know what cuts are you expecting in your other funding. Ms. Urbanczyk said that they did not expect any cuts in state funds because they received a statement from the state. Mr. Jones asked what their alternate plan was if receive cuts. Mr. Urbanczyk said that they would continue to serve as many clients as they can and the waiting list of 20 will be added to. We serve 20 counties and have other funding sources and if necessary, we can do other services, such as rental assistance and prescription assistance, to maintain the FoodNET. Mr. Allen asked if they anticipated any overlap in service. Ms. Urbanczyk said that when Amarillo Senior Citizen Association stopped providing food, PRPC paid for meals to the homebound until other funds could be secured. ASCA does not want to distribute meals to the homebound and would not be eligible for the state funding that PRPC receives.

No overlap anticipated. Bill Bandy asked if these funds would be used in all 20 counties. Ms. Urbanczyk said that funds won't pay for meals to homebound who are not senior citizens. United Way funds are used for that in the other counties. Mr. Allen asked if the funds that they are requesting going to be used outside the city limits. Ms. Urbanczyk said no.

No further comments from the committee.

Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, Child Care, Pam Zenick, PO Box 9257 -- \$100,000 – described the program and explained that they expect matching donations from other sources.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

No comments.

Hamlet School Park, Splash Pad, Rod Tweet, 2326 NW 11th -- \$180,000 – The splash pad that was installed at Bones Hooks Park has shown tremendous increase in park attendance and seems to have helped to prevent vandalism to the park. Residents in the area are proud of it and take care of it. This is also a public safety issue. Some of the children in the Hamlet Park area are walking to the other parks for water features. The children would be safer staying in their own neighborhood rather than walking to other parks.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Ruben Rivera asked about vandalism at other splash pads. Rod Tweet replied very little, but don't have a dollar amount. Bones Hook Park has actually had a reduction in vandalism since the splash pad was installed. Parks and Recreation will get the neighborhood kids involved in the design of the facility which helps them to take pride in and protect it. Ms. Grisham said that we've funded splash pads in the past and they seem to increase in cost each time. They are as expensive as a house now. Mr. Tweet said that they are very complex facilities that have intricate plumbing and computer controlled valves which accounts for much of the price. Mr. Rivera asked how many other are planned. Mr. Tweet said that 6 other parks with fill-and-drain pools, are unsafe and need to be replaced with splash pads. There are other parks in the city that still don't have any water features at all. Mr. Jones asked how long it would take to complete. Mr. Tweet said 4-6 weeks, possibly before the end of the warm season this year and definitely before next summer. Mr. Jones wanted to know if it would be incorporated into the structured events that are already planned for summer activities. Mr. Graves said yes, consisting of organized activities during the day, seven days a week. Eddie Dunn commented that he has seen that graffiti and vandalism has reduced at parks with these improvements. Mr. Allen said that upgrades have already been approved and will this splash pad be covered by that security. Mr. Tweet said he didn't know the capability of cameras, but will check and lighting will be included at splash pad. Mr. Rivera asked what is the plan for these facilities if the drought continues and water rationing is ordered. Mr. Tweet said that computers can be programmed to cut back on water supply on all parks. If it is necessary to shut some down, they can be shut down on a rating basis so that one park is not unfairly affected.

No further comments from the committee.

The Salvation Army at Amarillo, Shelter Mattress and Bed Frame Replacement, 400 S. Harrison, Mitchell Owens, 2700 SW 6th -- \$118,300 -- described the programs and they want to replace 350 mattresses and 175 bunks because the current beds and mattresses are ten years old. The facility has discarded broken and worn out beds and mattresses over time and is currently down to 250 beds. Mr. Parr said that since you are seeking full funding for this project, have you tried other avenues for partial funding. Mr. Owens said that the entire facility is undergoing renovation and other portions of the project are funded in different ways. We are requesting full funding for this portion from CDBG, but there are other sources for the rest of the project. If we are unable to secure this funding, we will just do the best we can with what we have. Mr. Allen asked how they prevented bed bugs. Mr. Owens answered that clients cannot bring in their own bedding. Our bedding is washed every day and new beds would be bed bug resistant to help in this endeavor. Mr. Allen asked if the mattresses and beds have a 20 year warranty and is there a plan to fund their replacement when the time comes. Mr. Owens said they will refer those questions to the Major. Mr. Parr asked if there was a break-down of the costs of the mattresses and beds. Mr. Owens said he will refer the question to the Major. Mr. Rivera asked if Amarillo would receive any refugees from the tornados in the east or the flooding in the Mississippi valley. Mr. Owens said unknown. Mr. Allen asked how they would handle more than 350 people. Mr. Owens said that cots and blankets are set aside

for overflow. These cots are not suitable for everyday use, but can be used occasionally when the need arises. With 350 beds, we can add cots and blankets to house 500-600 people. Mr. Allen asked for clarification, are you requesting 100 additional beds to what you have now. Mr. Owens answered yes, but they are to bring us back up to where we were before our current beds started breaking down and being discarded.

No further comments from the committee.

Texas Panhandle Family Planning and Health Centers, Roof Replacement, Sandy Taylor, 1501 S. Taylor -- \$117,259 – described the services provided and explained that the roof was more than just a roof. It allows the agency to continue providing necessary health care services. The roof is 20 years old and has been patched and repaired as part of ongoing maintenance, but it is nearing complete failure that is beyond the budget to replace.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Eddie Dunn asked to explain why 94% of patients are below 200% of poverty. Ron Barwick, 1501 S. Taylor, explained that 200% of poverty is a standard measure for average income. Mr. Jones said since you are requesting \$117,259, have you exhausted other sources. Mr. Barwick said yes, and has raised \$5,000 from other sources. Mr. Allen asked if there was a capital improvement fund for the next time this happens. Mr. Barwick said yes, the fund is now set up with a committee to oversee it. Mr. Parr said your financials show that there are other funds. Mr. Barwick said that is not actually reserve. Those accounts were set up to provide annuities to the center using only the interest so that it can have income in perpetuity. Mr. Allen asked what cuts do you foresee in funding and worst-case scenario, would the agency survive with all funding cut. Mr. Barwick said Title 4 funds provide about 40% of operating costs. We would have to cut staff and services, but would continue to provide what services we could to survive.

Texas Panhandle Regional Development Corporation, Micro-Loan Program, Chuck Rivas, 801 S. Fillmore - \$150,000 – described services and the program is self-sustaining, but there is a need to increase the total amount that can be loaned.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Mr. Allen said he always pushes economic development, but is disappointed in the progress of only three loans. Mr. Rivas said that there simply aren't any other funds to lend. We have more requests, but our funds are depleted and many applicants don't qualify. Mr. Allen said that he had referred people to the program, but misunderstood the rules. Can HUD relax requirements so that more businesses can qualify? Mr. Jones asked if this was one loan per year. Mr. Rivas answered that they actually started loaning the money out about a year ago and started with \$100,000. Many of the applicants don't qualify and after three loans, ran out of money. Mr. Jones asked if there was a marketing strategy. Mr. Rivas said they work closely with WT Entrepreneur Alliance and local banks. Mr. Allen made the comment to Donna Wickes that they needed to talk about possible changes to qualifications so that more businesses can qualify. Ms. Wickes added that they needed to work with other partners to help applicants be successful and may need to have an event to help small businesses succeed. Mr. Parr asked if an applicant needs to be low income and have 10% of the loan request on-hand seems counterproductive. Mr. Allen said that we need to help them help our neighborhoods.

No further comments from the committee.

Wesley Community Center, Club Wrestling, Melvin Guerrero, 1615 S. Roberts -- \$12,000 – described the wrestling program, history and told anecdotes of families. This grant request is for the coach salary. We have increased the program to 12 months instead of just the school year. We have 66 kids with 100% parent involvement.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Ms. Grisham asked who was the coach. Mr. Guerrero said Tony Hernandez. Mr. Dunn asked what are the ages of the kids involved. Mr. Guerrero said 5-16 years and wrestling students from the high schools are volunteering. Mr. Jones asked if the numbers have increased since Catholic Family Service SOS closed. Mr. Guerrero explained that they had increased from school year to 12 months and the numbers have increased.

No further comments from the committee.

Wesley Community Center, Families in Crisis Professional Counseling, Kendra McClure, 1615 S. Roberts - \$17,500 -- explained that the grant request was for salaries for two LPCs; full-time and part-time. They already have WT Interns assisting, but there is a need for increased counseling services.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Mr. Allen asked if they duplicated efforts of other agencies. Ms. McClure said that they were not allowed to counsel clients who already have a counselor. Mary Jane Nelson asked if fees were waived for homeless and low income. Ms. McClure replied that they used a sliding pay scale. Low income clients never pay the \$98 and the sliding scale starts at \$5.

No further comments from the committee.

West Texas Family and Community Services, Empowerment Project, Sarah Northrup, 601 SW 10th -- \$47,416 -- described services and that this is an effort to keep people in housing through learning skills required to get and keep a job and to get better jobs.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Mr. Allen asked if they were familiar with the Habitat for Humanity program to assist with budgeting and other household skills. Ms. Northrup said this program would not overlap that one by much. This program helps people to become employable and stay employed. Mr. Allen asked what skills are taught. Ms. Northrup replied a job interview, resume writing, clothing and attitude. Mr. Jones asked what were the success rates of this program. Ms. Northrup said that this program has not started yet. This grant request is to develop this program. We want to prevent clients returning for assistance month after month. We will also be referring them to educational opportunities.

No further comments from the committee.

Young Men's Christian Association, North Branch Renovation, Jim Haugen, 4101 Hillside -- \$90,577 -- gave an overall description of the North Branch. Myron Sims, 1330 NW 18th, described the renovation project. This project will enable the YMCA to better serve more kids in the 79107 area. With SOS closing there is a greater need and we cannot increase services without increasing space.

Chairman Allen asked if there were any comments from the committee.

Ms. Grisham asked about the changes to the multi-purpose room, have there been fundraisers for improvements that have been needed for a long time. Mr. Sims responded that there has not been much fundraising for improvements. We had fundraisers for the original construction and we are asking for this grant to help us do even more. Mr. Haugen added that we are constantly in a fundraising mode. Ms. Grisham said that there are no more funds in the neighborhood. Rita Bryant, 4101 Hillside, stated that four years ago the YMCA could not make payroll. She spent 2 years raising money for payroll and creating revenue to provide operations. The YMCA will be able to increase revenue and needs \$190,000 a year. We've been working on stability and will be able to provide for ourselves. We need help with these capital improvements. Mr. Allen asked that they provide the committee with statistics through the Community Development Office.

No further comments from the committee.

Home Administration \$88,807 -- Program Management \$324,745 -- Rehab Support Administration \$150,437 -- Transportation for the Homeless \$9,000 -- City of Amarillo -- Chairman Allen informed everyone in attendance that due to time constraints these presentations will be made at a later time.

Chairman James Allen thanked the attendees for coming.

With no further business to come before the committee, Chairman Allen adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.

Approved by: Donna Wickes
Community Development Administrator