

**COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2006– 7:00 P.M.**

**CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS – 1ST FLOOR
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE**

Board Members

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Cumulative From 10/05</u>	
			<u>(P)</u>	<u>(A)</u>
Jennie Brooks	P		4	0
Marie Conroy		A	1	3
Marjorie Davis		A	0	4
John Hurley	P		4	0
Robert Pascal	P		1	3
Sanford Rosenthal		A	3	1
Diane Schuster	P		3	1
Robert Smith	P		4	0
William Goetz	P		4	0
Michael Kimmey	P		3	1
Alfred Imgrund	P		3	1
Avery Dial	P		4	0
Margaret Birch	P		2	1
Fenel Antoine		A	0	2

Staff Present:

Margarette Hayes, Community Development Manager
Leon Burgess, Housing & Community Development
Susan Batchelder, Housing & Community Development

Margaret A. Muhl, Recording Secretary

Guests

None

Call to Order

Chair John Hurley called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by roll call of which a quorum was present. Review/Approval of the minutes was deferred.

Margarette Hayes proceeded to introduce staff that was present this evening.

Board Member Updates

Margarette Hayes advised that no new appointments had been made in regard to the Community Services Board.

FY 2006-2007 Community Development Block Grant Application Process Workshop

Margarette Hayes stated that in preparation for the review process that would occur in April, 2006, an application package had been provided to the Board for their review which had been adjusted based on suggestions made by this Board. She advised that applications had been distributed on February 6, 2006 to approximately 35-40 agencies. After all applications are submitted to the City, staff would review them to make sure that all HUD requirements were met, and then the Board would receive copies of all applications for their review, and questions could be asked of the applicants during their presentation. Board members were reminded that site visits at the requesting agencies were permitted. If more than 20 applications were received, a deferral of the balance of the applications could be made until the following Monday. At the Board's meeting in May, recommendations would be made for funding distributions in accordance with a rating system that would be done for all applicants.

Jennie Brooks entered the meeting at this time.

Margarette Hayes continued stating that all applications were due back to the City by March 6, 2006.

William Goetz had asked previously if the City Commission had altered any of the recommendations made by this Board last year. Margarette Hayes stated that no alterations had been made for the last few years. William Goetz asked what determination was made as to who should receive the applications. Margarette Hayes stated that ads were published in the newspapers and requests were made from those ads, along with information being distributed to agencies that had applied for funds the previous year. She also stated that several agencies attended the planning meetings that were held which gave an overview of the program.

Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2006 Meeting

Mr. Goetz entered the meeting at this time.

Margaret Birch stated that on page 5, it stated: "Margaret Birch asked if all these information...", and it should read: "Margaret Birch asked if all this information...."

Chair John Hurley stated that the minutes appear very detailed.

Motion made by Alfred Imgrund and seconded by Jennie Brooks to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2006 meeting minutes as corrected. Board unanimously approved.

Other Business

Margarette Hayes stated that on February 8, 2006, she had received an e-mail from the National Low Income Housing Coalition alerting them of the proposed \$2.77 Trillion budget. She stated that \$600 Million had been cut from the Department of Housing and Urban Development which was a 1.8% decrease from the previous year's appropriations. She reiterated that this Board performed an important function, and she requested that they advocate for the continued maintenance of the Community

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Development Block Grant Program and the support for HUD. She also advised that approximately \$300 Million was being cut from the Public Housing Capital Fund which was in connection with repairs and upgrades in public housing occupied mostly by elderly and disabled individuals. She further stated that the City also had lost around \$50,000 in Block Grant Funding for this year. She remarked that social service issues were also being affected by such reductions in funding.

Chair John Hurley stated that Congressman Shaw had been Mayor of this City previously, and he felt contact should be made with him in connection with some of these issues. Margarete Hayes stated that the City had a legislative liaison who received items of concern to be addressed at such government levels.

William Goetz asked if this Board could write a letter to the Congressman stating their concerns about such funding issues. Margarete Hayes stated that such a recommendation would be up to this Board to make. She further explained that some programs were losing monies, but other programs such as HOPWA were gaining funds.

Chair John Hurley asked if the Board Members could meet with the Congressman regarding such issues. Margarete Hayes stated that could be done as long as the Sunshine law was not violated. She continued to request that this Board continue to advocate for funding levels to be maintained at the levels that they were 3-4 years ago

Margaret Birch suggested that a letter be drafted on behalf of this Board to both Congressmen.

Robert Smith commented that Senators voted on such issues also, and that possibly the letter be sent to those individuals also.

Alfred Imgrund reminded everyone that this was a non-partisan issue and stated that he was in favor of such a letter being sent to the concerned individuals.

Chair John Hurley asked if such letter could be written on City letterhead. Margarete Hayes stated that she would inquire if that was permissible.

Update on Workforce Housing Follow-Up Meeting

Margarete Hayes stated that a second meeting was held regarding workforce housing, and more than 100 individuals had attended and 76 public comments had been provided to the City Commissioners for further discussion. She defined workforce housing as being for individuals who earn more than 80% of the area's median income, such as law clerks, teachers, police and firefighters.

Alfred Imgrund urged everyone to push the City Officials to move forward on this issue. Margaret Birch reiterated that discussions need to be held with the District Commissioners so this issue could be addressed. She stated it appeared the City and County were on opposite sides of the street on this problem.

William Goetz asked if information was available from other cities and states who had dealt with this issue successfully.

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Margarette Hayes stated that she had information from the results of such studies consisting of inclusionary zoning ordinances requiring that developers include a percentage of their developments for workforce housing or the option of paying a fee in lieu of, along with flat fees being paid per square footage.

Chair John Hurley stated that property taxes were rising with no caps being placed on commercial properties such as apartment buildings, therefore, rents were being raised or buildings were being demolished and townhomes were being constructed which would have a 3% residential cap on taxes.

Margarette Hayes added that condo conversions were also occurring, and added that insurance rates were also rising, as well as property taxes.

Jennie Brooks stated that the City is behind in workforce housing in comparison to other municipalities.

Margarette Hayes stated that further education needed to take place regarding workforce housing so it could progress.

Chair John Hurley reiterated that if property taxes were not controlled, nothing would occur regarding this issue.

Taping of Meetings

Chair John Hurley stated that Leon Burgess had researched the issue of video and audio taping of meetings. He stated further that the law turned on audios, but not on videos. He stated that they needed to move forward and have these meetings also taped on video. Therefore, the community could be made aware of what this Board was doing and what problems existed in the community.

Taxicabs

Chair John Hurley also stated that the taxicab issue was being raised again, and that the City Commission wanted to be more pro-active regarding this matter. He stated that this Board had done a lot of work in regard to ordinances in connection with this issue, but the matter had never been addressed by the City Commission.

Margarette Hayes stated that she would check into this matter.

Minutes

Margarette Hayes advised that the Board's meeting minutes were done in summary form and were not verbatim.

Chair John Hurley stated that verbatim minutes would be considered a transcript.

Margarette Hayes stated that she had spoken with the transcriber regarding the minutes and some adjustments that were to be made on personal or sidebar comments not being included as a part of the minutes summary.

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There being no further business to come before this Board, the Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Muhl