

# APPROVED

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MEETING July 13, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.

### CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS – 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR 100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Board Members</u> <u>Cumulative</u> <u>From 10/09</u>	
			<u>(P)</u>	<u>(A)</u>
Marjorie Davis		A	0	9
Erika Baer	P		1	0
William Goetz	P		8	1
Michael Kimmey	P		7	2
Avery Dial	P		9	0
Margaret Birch		A	7	2
Emmett Kater		A	5	4
P.J. Espinal		A	7	2
Christopher Priester		A	6	3
James Currier		A	8	1
Nadia Locke	P		8	1
Kevin Hull	P		6	3
Donald Karney	P		9	0
Helen Hinton		A	3	1
Carmelita Singh-Mayer	P		2	1
Wendy Gonsher	P		1	0

#### Staff Present:

Angelia Basto, Administrative Support  
Susan Batchelder, Assistant Community Development Manager  
Stephen Scott, Director of Economic Development  
Karen Reese, Economic Development Department

Margaret A. Muhl, Recording Secretary

#### Call to Order

Mr. Dial called the meeting to order at approximately 7:06 p.m., and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

Ms. Batchelder proceeded to introduce staff that was present at tonight's meeting.

Ms. Batchelder stated that as of the last meeting, it was confirmed that since Mr. Maymon was a candidate for public office, he could not continue serving on this Board.

Ms. Batchelder advised that as of July 13, 2009, there are 15 appointed members of the Board, and therefore, 8 members would constitute a quorum. A quorum was present this evening.

Ms. Batchelder advised that Mr. Dial had been taking Mr. Maymon's position, but the Board would have to elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

**Motion** made by Mr. Goetz and seconded by Mr. Kimmey to proceed and elect a Chair and Vice Chair of this Board. Board unanimously approved.

### **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

**Motion** made by Mr. Goetz and seconded by Mr. Kimmey to nominate Avery Dial as Chair of the Community Services Board. Mr. Dial accepted the nomination. Board unanimously approved.

**Motion** made by Mr. Hull to nominate Mr. Goetz as Vice Chair of the Community Services Board. Mr. Goetz refused the nomination.

**Motion** made by Mr. Goetz and seconded by Mr. Kimmey to nominate Ms. Locke as Vice Chair of the Community Services Board. Ms. Locke stated that several members were absent this evening, and she suggested that possibly they should wait to fill this position. Ms. Locke declined the nomination.

**Motion** made by Mr. Goetz and seconded by Ms. Locke to table the selection of a Vice Chair until the next Board meeting. Board unanimously approved.

Ms. Batchelder advised that the next Board meeting would be in September.

### **Introduction of New Members**

Erika Baer stated she is active in the community and has a property management business on Las Olas Boulevard. She is currently a member of the Board of the Las Olas Association, and works with various other foundations and groups.

Present Board Members proceeded to introduce themselves.

Ms. Singh-Mayer entered the meeting at approximately 7:14 p.m.

### **Communications to City Commission**

No report.

### **Cultural Arts and Tourism**

Karen Reese, Economic Development Department, stated that previously this Board discussed a field trip to the Dillard Museum. This trip would be postponed until August since there is no Board meeting scheduled for that month. She also asked for suggestions for other field trips.

The Board agreed to visit the Dillard Museum during the month of August. It was decided to schedule the tour for August 11, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. Staff would contact the Board Members who were not present this evening.

Ms. Reese suggested a tour be taken of the Swimming Hall of Fame.

Stephen Scott, Director of Economic Development, explained that there are plans to place a water theme park at the Swimming Hall of Fame. He stated that many individuals did not realize the City had a world-class swimming and diving facility. He stated the Board had suggested this site previously. He suggested that further discussion take place at the Board's September meeting regarding where they want to go with the arts and cultural portion of the meeting.

Mr. Goetz agreed the site would be interesting. Mr. Scott suggested that possibly a presentation could also be made of future plans for the site. He advised the matter is going out for RFP shortly. Mr. Goetz suggested they visit the site in September, but not cancel their scheduled meeting. Mr. Kimmey suggested the Board visit the site on September 8, 2009.

Mr. Goetz asked for an update regarding signage for tourist sites. Mr. Scott stated a consultant's report would be provided in the near future.

Ms. Locke thanked staff in regard to following up on the riverboat signage and parking. Removal of the time restrictions was a very good move on the City's part.

### **Approval of Minutes**

June 8, 2009

There being no corrections or additions made to the June 8, 2009 meeting minutes, they were accepted and approved by the Board.

### **Subcommittee Vote/Proposed Meeting Times**

Ms. Batchelder advised that Mr. Goetz was correct in that the subcommittee has to be voted on by the Board, and it has to go before the City Commission for approval.

Ms. Batchelder summarized the issue of staff's recommendation which countermanded the Board's regarding the CDBG funding.

Mr. Dial explained that he went to the Commission meeting, and he believes Commission's concern centered around the ranking system. He proceeded to inform the Board about his explanation to the Commission regarding procedure. He stated that he also informed the Commission that this Board was attempting to fund organizations that did not have other sources of funding available.

Ms. Batchelder advised that Ms. Birch also attended the Commission meeting and expressed her concern that the need was not being addressed in the application. She also stated that a representative from Jack 'n Jill also spoke explaining how she wrote their grants, and believed their organization had not been considered while other organizations were that did not have a grant writer. At the evening Commission meeting, a representative from Women in Distress attended and explained their position regarding the application. The Commission recommended to take funding

away from the Coalition for the Homeless and award it to Women in Distress. Conversation centered around the fact that this was an Advisory Board and they made recommendations to the Commission. In the end, the Commission made the final decision. A representative was also present from Call 211 who expressed their appreciation for the funding, but stressed that the "well was drying up," and organizations who had been funded in the past were in dire need of assistance at this time.

Ms. Batchelder further stated that the Commission wants staff to return to the November meeting, and explain the scope of work for the subcommittee. She wants this Board to officially vote on forming this subcommittee. She explained that the subcommittee would put into place policies and procedures regarding the granting of monies to public services. She stated that the Commission felt the granting of funds was subjective and not objective. This coming year will be a consolidated plan year. She stated that two things would be required of the subcommittee which are that they meet between regular working hours (9 to 5), and meet at least twice before presenting the material to the Commission.

**Motion** made by Mr. Dial and seconded by Ms. Locke to create the subcommittee for the purpose of creating policies and procedures in connection with the Board's review of applications for the granting of CDBG monies.

Ms. Batchelder explained that a process existed, but it was not 100% objective.

Mr. Goetz stated that it is not possible to make the process completely objective.

Ms. Batchelder reiterated that all aspects of the service provided by the agency would be considered. She proceeded to explain the procedure followed when applications were submitted. The issue of subjectivity was discussed. She stated that the agencies were advised of their opportunity to attend the Commission meeting.

Mr. Goetz further stated that the current rating system relates to how well the applications were filled out. There is no room for the Board to rate the issue of need. He stated that possibly the ranking criteria should be reviewed. He stated that the Board was also asked to approve the yearly action plan and neighborhood stabilization plans. He suggested that possibly criteria for those programs should also be reviewed.

Ms. Batchelder explained that the action plan was presented to this Board, and the Board voted whether to recommend it to the Commission. The only portion of the action plan that this Board can provide input on is in connection with the public service/social service areas.

Mr. Goetz provided some history in connection with this Board recommending approval of the action plan.

Ms. Batchelder advised that the entire action plan involved all four Federal funds which were HOPWA, ESG, CDBG, and HOME. It is important to attend the January planning meetings.

Chair Avery Dial stated that the Board could decide the scope of the subcommittee at a later date, and now only vote for its formation.

Ms. Batchelder reiterated that the scope of the subcommittee would be to create policies and procedures for the social service portion of the annual action plan.

The Board approved the formation of the subcommittee, except for Mr. Goetz who voted against it.

Ms. Batchelder explained they were intending to bring the matter before the Commission as a walk-on item so the subcommittee could begin meeting. She would keep the Board advised.

The names of the volunteers for the subcommittee were announced by Ms. Basto.

Mr. Hull asked about the discussion regarding the Board's concern regarding Women in Distress.

Ms. Batchelder stated that Mr. Dial mentioned the organization was moving to Deerfield Beach. Their representative reiterated that 48% of the people they assist came from the City of Fort Lauderdale. There would be a smaller facility in the City. She advised that the annual action plan would go before the Commission for their approval on July 21, 2009. Other information would be provided to the Commission regarding other issues.

Mr. Goetz asked if this Board could change any of their recommendations regarding the funding. Ms. Batchelder advised that a letter could be send from the Chair, but the annual action plan was due at HUD by August 15, 2009. She suggested that interested Board Members attend the Commission meeting on July 21, 2009.

Chair Avery Dial reminded the Board that they only make recommendations to the Commission, and it is the Commission's final decision.

Mr. Goetz stated that he did not feel that Women in Distress were in need of the funds, and that other organizations had more need for the funding. He suggested that this Board make the Commission aware of such facts.

Ms. Batchelder reiterated that the public hearings had been held, and there is no time to hold another public hearing due to notification requirements. Therefore, another recommendation could not be presented to the Commission. The only course of action would be for Board members to attend the Commission meeting and voice their opinions. She explained that the public hearing was held when the Board considered the annual action plan and voted on it, which was the previous meeting.

Chair Avery Dial asked if the Board wanted to pursue any further action regarding the matter. No recommendations were made by any of the Board Members.

**Other Business**

Ms. Batchelder stated that at the previous meeting, they had discussed how the entitlements came down for Federal grants, and she had explained that the information was obtained from the census. She proceeded to show a map of the census tracts, and explained the areas. The next census would occur in 2010.

Mr. Goetz asked if there were any other HUD programs not already applied for. Ms. Batchelder explained there were a number of stimulus packages, but they were only handling the HPRP (Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing) for which the City received over \$800,000. An RFP was issued. Another one was CDBG Recovery which was slightly over \$500,000. A program was presented to the Commission in connection with job retainment and creation for small businesses. It was approved by the Commission, and they were presently waiting on HUD approval. She stated that HUD programs came through their office, but other stimulus monies are handled by the Grants Administration Office.

Mr. Goetz asked if the Department was prohibited from applying for grants from non-HUD entities. Ms. Batchelder advised that the Grants Administration Office handled those, and departments were usually aware of grants for their projects.

**Good of the Order**

Chair Avery Dial thanked the Board for selecting him as chair, and he hoped to serve the Board well.

Ms. Batchelder stated that the Board was well represented at the Commission meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously approved.

There being no other business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Muhl,  
Recording Secretary