

**APPROVED**  
**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**Community Services Board**  
**October 10, 2011 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**City Commission Chambers, City Hall**  
**Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

| <b>MEMBERS</b>              |   | <b>OCT 2011/SEPT 2012</b> |               |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------|
|                             |   | <b>PRESENT</b>            | <b>ABSENT</b> |
| Donald Karney, Chair        | P | 1                         | 0             |
| Richard Whipple, Vice Chair | P | 1                         | 0             |
| Erika Baer                  | A | 0                         | 1             |
| Margaret Birch              | P | 1                         | 0             |
| James Currier               | P | 1                         | 0             |
| Wendy Gonsler               | A | 0                         | 1             |
| Jeannine Richards           | P | 1                         | 0             |
| David Tilbury               | A | 0                         | 1             |
| Earl Bosworth               | P | 1                         | 0             |
| Helen Hinton                | P | 1                         | 0             |
| Kenneth Staab               | P | 1                         | 0             |
| Jasmin Shirley              | A | 0                         | 1             |

**Staff Present:**

Jonathan Brown, Manager, Housing & Community Development  
 Angelia Basto, Administrative Aide, Housing & Community Development  
 Denise Greenstein, Housing & Community Development  
 Jeri Pryor, Federal Grants Administrator, Housing and Community Development  
 Amanda Lebofsky, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communications to City Commission**

The Community Services Board was advised that the City Commission would like to meet with them (*specifically the Chair and Vice Chair*) to discuss the program requirements for the CDBG Public Service Program. The discussion will take place at the November 1, 2011 City Commission Conference meeting.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Whipple, seconded by Ms. Hinton, that members of the Board, the Vice Chair and Chair, will be at the 1:30 p.m. conference meeting on the Eighth Floor November 1<sup>st</sup>. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**Roll Call**

- **Quorum Requirement**

As of October 10, 2011, there are 12 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 members would constitute a quorum.

Chair Donald Karney called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Lebofsky and it was determined a quorum was present.

### **Board/Staff Introductions**

Staff members present were introduced by Mr. Jonathan Brown.

### **City Commission News**

Mr. Brown reported that due to budget cuts, the office eliminated two filled positions and one vacant position. One of the vacant positions was for Susan Batchelder, who was the Department Assistant Manager and also the liaison. Jeri Pryor will be the new liaison, and Denise Greenstein will be assisting her.

### **Election of Officers**

Chair Karney opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Mr. Staab **nominated** Don Karney for Chair, and Ms. Hinton seconded the nomination.

Ms. Hinton **nominated** Richard Whipple for Vice Chair, and Mr. Bosworth seconded the nomination.

In a voice vote, the Board's recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair were passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes Summary – July 11, 2011**

**Motion** by Vice Chair Whipple, seconded by Ms. Richards, to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2011, meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Introduction of New CSB Liaison**

Ms. Pryor introduced herself, saying she has been with the City for about 13 years. Before working in the Housing & Community Development Department, she worked in the NCIP (Neighborhood Capital Improvement Program). She now oversees the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS grant, the Emergency Shelter grant, the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Grant, and the public services side of the Community Development Block Grant.

She announced that Ms. Greenstein will be the Board's immediate contact, and she provided contact information for both of them. Agendas and other Board related materials will be coming from Ms. Greenstein.

### **Discussion of a New Time for CSB Meetings**

Mr. Brown explained that a new time is needed due to personnel changes and budget reductions. He asked if the Board could consider beginning the meetings before 7:00 p.m. There was a short discussion on what time would be best.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Whipple, seconded by Dr. Carrier, to change the meeting time to 4:00 p.m. on the same day (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday), and staff will notify the four absent members. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Pryor asked if polling the four absent members might change their vote, and Chair Karney replied in the negative. She then requested that the new time begin in December, to allow staff time to make schedule changes.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Whipple, seconded by Ms. Birch, to start the new time at the December meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **CDBG Criteria & Policies**

Mr. Brown stated that the City Commission has requested a meeting to discuss this issue with the Chair and Vice Chair at the November 1<sup>st</sup> City Commission meeting.

Mr. Brown introduced some issues that have arisen at City Commission meetings:

- Three-year rule (agencies can receive grants for three consecutive years, but not a fourth year)
  - The City Commission needs to understand the origin of that rule
- Re-examine the categories and criteria
  - Maybe have an option on an annual basis to review categories as to importance

Mr. Brown felt it was important that the Committee members communicate their ideas to the City Commission, even if it means revamping the program.

Ms. Birch recalled that when they established the “three year rule,” they did it on the basis of some questions and recommendations that HUD had. She wondered if the City Commissioners were aware of that. Mr. Brown said that the City Commissioners were aware of that when they approved it, but perhaps need to be reminded. He emphasized that they were “strong recommendations” from HUD, not policy matters.

Chair Karney thought the application/approval process has gotten easier every year, and he did not have problems with the criteria per se. Dr. Carrier said that the process encourages newcomers, not only with extra points, but with the “three-year rule” which prevents the same people getting the grants year after year. Vice Chair Whipple agreed, noting that some agencies in the City of Hollywood have been receiving grants

since the early 80s, and thought that was detrimental to them trying to establish self-sufficiency.

Mr. Brown relayed that the City Commission was not concerned with the six categories, but he himself came up with the idea of targeting three or four categories based on what is going on in the economy. Vice Chair Whipple thought that approach would provide better clarity for staff to be able to place the proposals in categories.

Ms. Pryor clarified that one of the programs she administers, the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing was a stimulus program developed by the Obama administration because of foreclosures. That is an example of a targeted program. She said that program will end in June 2012, and the City will need funding to help the homeless and displaced. The City can provide numbers and other information on this situation to the Board.

Chair Karney asked the Board if anyone had objections to the existing four grant conditions:

1. 10-point curve for new applicants
2. \$50,000 cap
3. Consecutive funding
4. Mandatory meetings

Hearing none, he said that he and Vice Chair Whipple will tell the City Commission that they would like to keep the criteria as is, minus the category changes.

Mr. Brown suggested sending a Communication to the City Commission requesting a certain time on the agenda for the discussion. No-one on the Board put forward a particular time, so Chair Karney said they will wait in line to be called.

Mr. Brown mentioned that the City Commission will be asking the Board when it will decide what categories it wants to pursue. He continued that normally the public meetings begin around January to inform the public of the program, and said having the categories in place by then would give the community a chance to prepare. Mr. Brown said they can do a survey immediately to see what categories the community feels are important. Vice Chair Whipple thought Mr. Brown could also ask those questions of HUD, the County and other cities, and get the answers more quickly, and Mr. Brown said he would forego the survey.

Mr. Brown said that before the January meeting, he wants to know the categories/programs that would be administered.

Chair Karney repeated that the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be at 1:30 p.m.

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### **Other Business**

None.

### **Good of the Order**

Chair Karney mentioned he was sad to see Ms. Batchelder leave, and expressed appreciation to Ms. Basto as well.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion** by Ms. Hinton, seconded by Ms. Richards, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

[Minutes prepared by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]