

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CDAC)  
MARCH 17, 2022  
MEETING MINUTES**

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) met on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in Board Room C, on the first floor of the Civic Center at 126 N. St. Andrews Street.

Chair Laurie called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. **Members Present:** Chair Victor Laurie; Michael Wyant; Rufus Davis; Buford George; and Ruby Harris. **Members absent:** Vice-Chair, Anita Dawkins-Weatherington, and Kody Kirchhoff.

**Others Present:** Kelly Mierkowski, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Administrator; Todd McDonald, AICP, Planning & Development Director; and Theresa Eddy, Secretary.

2. **Approval of February 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

*Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Harris seconded, and the motion carried.*

3. **Old Business**

- a. **None**

4. **New Business**

- a. **Southeast Rural Rental Housing Preservation Academy – Application**

Ms. Mierkowski filled the application out and submitted it to the academy for consideration. Out of 15 applicants, they chose 12, of which Dothan was included. The City of Dothan hopes to gain valuable information and receive free training and technical assistance from participating in the Preservation Academy. Ms. Mierkowski stated that this will help in the goals set for more affordable housing in Dothan. Ms. Mierkowski stated that there have been steps already taken to obtain affordable housing in Dothan. Along with surveys taken, there was the Strategic Affordable Housing Implementation Plan, Near North Neighborhood Plan, Business Plan, and now the Acquisition and Demolition program. Mr. McDonald stated that there had been some interruptions to the goal such as replacing our CDBG Administrator and Covid-19, but they were back on track.

- b. **Discussion: Neighborhood Meetings**

Ms. Mierkowski asked for some feedback on the neighborhood meetings. Chair Laurie stated that some people still were not aware of the meetings so the suggestion was to make up flyers that the Committee members could hand out to members of their local religious organizations. This year, the meetings were advertised on WDHN, in the Dothan Eagle, and signs were placed outside of the sites where the meetings were being held, along with flyers being handed out. Mr. Davis asked about the attendance, to which Chair Laurie stated that Hawk-Houston had good attendance with good discussions. Ms. Mierkowski stated that there were about 20 people in attendance and Mr. McDonald stated that it was during the day. Chair Laurie stated that he still believed meetings between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. would be easier for most people to attend. Ms. Harris mentioned that she saw new agencies applied this year. Ms. Mierkowski will check into more advertising platforms for next year's meetings but stated that this year went rather well.

Ms. Mierkowski stated she attended a meeting with the Southeast Alabama Coalition for the Homeless (SEACH) and they appreciated that the city had Neighborhood Meetings and are happy to have a representative of the City attend their meetings.

**5. Review of the 2022/2023 Competitive Funding Process Schedule**

March 7-28 Review applications, organize them into binders

March 17 – Regular Meeting to discuss the applications

- Ms. Mierkowski stated that she had received all the applications she could accept by the deadline and handed out a spreadsheet that broke each application down by percentage of HUD's strict criteria. Some applications were missing items, one was too late, and some filled out the wrong forms. Ms. Mierkowski asked the committee if they would allow time for those to submit missing items and correct their mistakes and the committee agreed to one more week. Ms. Mierkowski submitted an Interview Schedule with a breakdown by agency, program, and timeframe. This was preliminary and would be finalized and emailed to the committee.

April 1 – Deadline to have binders ready.

Members will be emailed once they are ready for pick up.

April 21 - Regular Meeting

April 25 & 26 Presentations – 15-minute presentation for applicants

April 28 – Deliberations – formulate recommendations

May 17 – CDAC presentation to City Commissioners

May 19 – Regular Meeting

**6. Public Comments:** Mr. McDonald spoke about the sidewalk projects, happening, and future, that the CDBG funding will provide.

**7. Adjourn**

***Mr. Davis made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Wyant seconded, and the motion carried.***

The meeting ended at 4:50 p.m. The next regular meeting date is April 21, 2022.

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**Victor Laurie, Chair**

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**Theresa Eddy, Secretary**