

CDBG CAC MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

The CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee of the City of North Chicago met on Monday, February 12, 2019, at 6:27 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 1850 Lewis Avenue, North Chicago, IL 60064.

I. Call To Order/Attendance (Roll Call)

Present: Shawna Huley, Cassandra Brown, Arthur DeVost, Maere M. Floyd-Pitts, Katherine Maguire

Absent: Aubrey Woodson

II. Approval of Minutes CDBG CAC Meeting, February 13, 2018

Motion to approve meeting minutes by Pitts, seconded by Huley

Ayes: Huley, Brown, DeVost, Pitts, Maguire

Nays:

Absent: Woodson

III. Old Business – None

IV. New Business

**2019 CDBG Program Funding - Public Services**

Nimrod Warda, Senior Planner for the City of North Chicago, explains that the spreadsheets and summary provided to the CDBG CAC came to the City by way of the staff at the Lake County Community Development Division. Nimrod Warda states that Eric Foote is their representative in attendance, and that the City's staff recommendation matches that of Lake County's staff. See attached.

Maguire agrees with and likes all the same recommendations.

Pitts asked for clarification on the University of Illinois program.

Eric Foote explains that this is to educated youth from 7 to 14 years of age about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. The funding would be used to offset some of salary costs to run the program.

Pitts asks if for 7 to 14 year olds?

Eric Foote corrected himself and stated 8 to 14 year olds, and mentioned that the program would be run out of School District 187.

Pitts asked at what schools?

Eric Foote stated that the school district would decide.

Nimrod Warda mentions that this is the first time they applied to the City, and asks if they have applied for Lake County funds in the past.

Eric Foote states yes, but that was before his time with Lake County, and they were not recommended at that either. He adds that the program does already exist, so this was just a request for extra financial support. Other programs seemed to have a greater impact and more relevance to the community.

Nimrod Warda mentions that they were the third lowest scoring applicants, with only UMMA, who was not recommended for approval, and Northern Illinois Food Bank being lower. Northern Illinois Food Bank was recommended for approval because of the direct benefit of a food bank.

Pitts asked if there were funds allocated previously by the City for something else.

Nimrod Warda and Eric Foote explain that this request is for their senior program at Kukla Tower and Thompson Manor, and that Waukegan and Lake County may have funded different programs in the past.

Eric Foote explains that volunteers may even help bring food up to the apartments of residents who can't pick it up from the parking lot.

Nimrod Warda explains that \$6,000 was also set aside for Prairie State Legal Services to assist residents with fair housing issues.

Maguire suggest adding \$1,000 for sexual assault counseling (Zacharias Center), and take it from YWCA.

Eric Foote explains that Zacharias Center only requested \$2,000, so we could not fund beyond their request.

Pitts asks, what does Zacharias Center use the money for?

Eric Foote explains that it is used for general counseling. They are the only center in Lake County for child victims of rape and sexual assault.

Pitts asks if they do any outreach?

Eric Foote explains that they do via hospitals and law enforcement. They will even provide counseling in an emergency room at a hospital.

Pitts asks, what is the meaning of UMMA?

Eric Foote was unsure about the acronym, but mentioned that it is a Muslim organization in downtown Waukegan that seeks to teach computer skills like Adobe and Salesforce.

Pitts mentioned that it seems they also help with GEDs.

Eric Foote states that their program wasn't as organized as some of the other applicants.

Pitts asks if they are a new organization?

Eric Foote explains that they have been around for a while, but Lake County will help guide them on future applications.

Nimrod Warda explains that umma means "community" or more specifically "Islamic community" in Arabic.

Department of Economic & Community Development Executive Secretary Yolanda McCrary states that UMMA stands for Urban Muslim Minority Alliance.

Nimrod Warda explains that one of the City's Planning & Zoning Commission members tends to promote activities put on by UMMA. They seem to do good stuff, but don't have as much experience as other organizations doing work within our community.

Eric Foote mentions that they also have had a lot of turnover in their leadership. UMMA also had problems showing how they can measure outcomes as well as manage their finances.

Nimrod Warda mentions that because two entities have applied for similar programs, namely YouthBuild and Youth Conservation Corps, the recommendation was to fund only one organization in order to get more bang for the buck. Since YouthBuild is based in North Chicago, and scored higher on their application, it is recommended for them to receive funding.

DeVost mentions that Firemen may need to be let go if they cannot find additional grant funding.

Nimrod Warda confirms this to be the case, which is unrelated to the grant money currently being discussed, and further elaborates that the hiring and firing process of the Fire Department is based on seniority. There have been a few recent retirements of senior staff in the Fire Department, so sometimes younger lower cost employees can step in to fill those rolls at the base salary versus the top salary, and that this can sometime lead to positions being saved.

Pitts asks if the CAC is comfortable allocating the CDBG funds at the levels presented by staff or if there is need for more discussion.

Nimrod Warda states that it is at their discretion, and that most entities are being funded around \$5,000 each, with the exception of Zacharias Center, because they only asked for \$2,000.

Brown states that she is fine with the recommendation.

Pitts confirms that Prairie State Legal Services will also receive funding, though they are not listed alongside the other applicants in the spreadsheet. She also mentions that they are having a seminar at Lake County Housing Authority the following week.

Nimrod Warda mentions that Prairie State Legal Services helps educate residents on whether they are being taken advantage of by “slum lords”.

Pitts states that there are many single family homes in town rented via Section 8.

Nimrod Warda mentions that the City has a unique situation where Section 8 rentals might actually be driving up the cost of rentals in town, because the payment is determined based on regional rent prices, which in many cases may be higher than our local market value rent prices.

**Motion on the Petition(s)**

Motion to accept the recommendations from Lake County and North Chicago staff by Maguire, seconded by Huley

Ayes: Huley, Brown, DeVost, Pitts, Maguire

Nays:

Absent: Woodson

Nimrod Warda mentions that this item will be brought to City Council for discussion on the upcoming Monday, and for a vote two weeks thereafter, in order to meet deadlines for Lake County to similarly make approval on their end.

V. Questions and Comments

Nimrod Warda states that the CDBG CAC is short one member and another member hasn't attended in a few years, so the City may look into new appointments for those positions. Although these members are appointed by the Mayor, he asked for input from CDBG CAC members.

Maguire mentions a lady by the name of Krista, who both lives and works in North Chicago.

Nimrod Warda asks Ms. Maguire to please forward along an email to him with contact information.

VI. Public Commentary – None

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Huley, seconded by Brown

Ayes: Huley, Brown, DeVost, Pitts, Maguire

Nays:

Absent: Woodson

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.