

MINUTES

Community Development Citywide Public Hearing

**Two Civic Center Plaza
2nd Floor – City Council Chambers
Wednesday, October 8, 2008**

There being a quorum, Billie Brown called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Members Present

John Doering
Andres Oroz
Billie Brown
Peg Booker
Hector Arellano
Jessie Sustaita

Members Absent

None

Late Arrivals

None

Early Departures

None

Staff Present

Anthony Shaar, Deputy Director
Judy Sarabia, Senior Grant Planner
Roxanne Varela, Grant Planner
Susie Moralez, Recording Secretary

Agenda

Discussion and action on:

1. Steering Committee Absences
2. Public Hearing to Obtain Public Comments about Housing and Community Development Needs and to Solicit Requests for Proposed Projects to be Funded Under the 35th Year (2009-1010) Community Development Block (CDBG) Program
3. Adjournment

Item 1: Steering Committee Absences

No action due to no absences.

Item 2: Public Hearing to Obtain Public Comments about Housing and

Community Development Needs and to Solicit Requests for Proposed Projects to be Funded Under the 35th Year (2009-2010) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Raul Dominguez, Stiles Garden Neighborhood Association, 7229 Stiles:

Mr. Dominguez is requesting sidewalks and "regular" streets to make it accessible for the children who walk to Ramona Elementary. He noted that illegal businesses are still operating and junk cars are parked. Although they have been reported to City Code Enforcement, no enforcement has yet occurred.

Elva Villagran, 7121 Dale Road:

Ms. Villagran is requesting pavement, sidewalk, and drainage improvements in the area of Stiles and Santini. She stated that the accumulation of water is a big problem and that there have been no such improvements for 30 years. Children and the elderly frequently walk through the area.

Carol Brey-Casiano and Suzanne Marrufo, El Paso Public Library-Clardy Fox Branch, 5515 Robert Alva:

Ms. Brey-Casiano and Ms. Marrufo are requesting expansion of the meeting room space in the Clardy Fox Branch Library, to include an auditorium with a stage. Currently, they are holding popular library events that attract hundreds of guests, mostly children, in a small meeting room which makes it difficult for everyone to see and participate. They are also hoping to add a Reading Garden. The approximate project cost is \$400,000 - \$500,000, but an accurate estimate has not yet been made.

Arturo Villareal, Montoya Neighborhood Association, 5800 Johannsen:

Mr. Villareal is requesting streets and sidewalks for his neighborhood, especially with the new school being built on Coates. He said area residents have been waiting 30 years for improvements. Bashar Abugalyon, from the Engineering Department of the City of El Paso, stated that there is a huge infrastructure problem and that a lot of other problems also need to be addressed. He said that acquisition is presently being worked on, then the rest will follow.

Roberto Beltran, 268 Easy Way

Mr. Beltran is requesting a dedicated street in order to access utilities for his home. Roxanne Varela explained that this property is landlocked and that the Housing Programs section of the Community Development Department has been trying to get utilities for this property but has had no luck. Susan Austin, from the El Paso Coalition for the Homeless, further explained that this

area formerly belonged to the county and that nothing was done to fix the

problem after it was annexed by the City.

Anareya Moreland, 320 Cooley Avenue:

Ms. Moreland is requesting streets, sidewalks, and drainage on Cooley and Greggerson Streets. She stated that they are very dangerous for children who walk to the area schools. She further explained that the utility easements behind the homes, the open irrigation canals, and the illegal dumping are all very dangerous to the entire community, especially to the children and elderly persons. Ms. Moreland has spoken to some of the older residents and they have told her that the streets have not been fixed for over 50 years. Hector Arellano will contact Ms. Moreland to arrange a visit to the area to further discuss the problem with the district's City Representative, Steve Ortega.

Elena Cabello and Gary Dewey, Good Samaritan Society, 7750 Lilac Way:

Ms. Cabello and Mr. Dewey are requesting new windows for a senior apartment building to make it safer and more energy efficient. The windows have not been replaced in 27 years. The request is for 101 one-bedroom apartments (about 202 windows) and 14 exterior door windows. The approximate cost is \$250,000.

Magdalena Monarrez, Catholic Daughters of America, 801 E. Magoffin Avenue:

Ms. Monarrez is requesting funding for a new roof for the Catholic Daughters of America building located on Magoffin Avenue. Additionally, she is seeking renovations to include accessibility improvements and gas lines. The cost estimate for the roof is \$45,000 and the total estimate is approximately \$150,000.

Puring Quiambao, Sherman Park Neighborhood Association, 10824 Sunstone:

Ms. Quiambao is requesting that the Sherman Park Neighborhood Association be included in any future park expansions for their area. Cruz Garcia, from the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of El Paso, stated that there is a lot of work planned, especially for Montano Park. He also stated that the Parks and Recreation department will be applying for funding for the 35th Year.

Luis Dominguez and Martha Garcia, 5849 Johannsen:

Mr. Dominguez and Ms. Garcia are requesting road improvements and sidewalks on Johannsen Road off of Doniphan. Mr. Dominguez stated that their building permit was denied on August 15, 2008 due to no street or sidewalks. There has not been a street or sidewalks there for 30 years, which is what the Montoya Neighborhood Association has been requesting for several years. Bashar Abugalyon, from the Engineering Department of the City of El Paso, stated that an ordinance was put into effect on September 1, 2008 requiring

minor plats on all empty lots. The Steering Committee suggested that they work

with the City Plan Commission to resolve the issues.

Susan Austin, El Paso Coalition for the Homeless, 6501 Boeing Drive, H-2:

Ms. Austin asked if she could use the same statistics for the homeless collaborative and the ESG applications. The Steering Committee advised her that she may use the same data. Additionally, she briefly discussed some information pertaining to the 36th Year application process. The committee advised her that she can bring that up during planning meetings for the 36th Year.

John Bibona, Theatre, Inc., P.O. Box 4856:

Mr. Bibona expressed his gratitude to the Steering Committee and to the Community Development Department for all that they do for the community. He also suggested that the committee not fund projects in districts in which there are no appointees to the Steering Committee. He believes that the Mayor and the City Representatives with vacancies should have filled those vacancies by now.

Item 3: Adjournment

A Motion was made by Ms. Booker, seconded by Mr. Doering, and unanimously carried to adjourn this meeting at 8:00 p.m.