

CDBG Public Hearing
For 2013 Action Plan
Held on
April 16, 2013

Meeting Minutes

A public hearing was held at Hoover City Hall in the Council Chambers, located at 100 Municipal Lane, Hoover, Alabama, on April 16, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. after having been duly advertised.

In attendance were Tim Westhoven (Assistant Executive Director), Traci Butler (Administrative Assistant) Jon Anderson (Birmingham News Reporter), Charles Priest (Executive Director of the Alabama Head Injury Foundation), Marian Lowery (Hoover citizen), and several citizens concerned about needed repairs to Patton Ridge apartments, which are for persons with physical disabilities and brain injuries, as well as seniors.

The meeting was called to order by Tim Westhoven and the agenda and handouts were given out.

Mr. Westhoven gave a brief overview of CDBG, HUD's national objectives, the criteria for determining whether or not a project is an eligible activity, eligible clientele and eligible areas, along with the importance of citizen participation in determining the use of entitlement funds.

Mr. Westhoven then gave an Activities Status Report regarding the 2012 Action Plan. He stated the After School Tutoring Enrichment Program was funded at \$35,176 and is currently providing tutoring at 3 different elementary schools, 3 afternoons a week. It helps approximately 80 low-to-moderate income students. He explained that the way students are identified as eligible is through the reduced school lunch program.

The second activity is the Emergency Home Repair Program, which was funded \$20,000. He explained that since 2010 to date, \$76,873.58 has been expended on 16 projects, with an available balance of \$56,026.42. Projects that have been completed include HVAC replacements, plumbing repair and roof replacements. Mr. Westhoven stated that we are currently exploring the possibility of removing the age requirement in order to receive more qualified applicants.

The third activity is a donation of \$5,000 to One Roof for Project Homeless Connect. He stated this project is run by One Roof, an umbrella organization for several different organizations that help the homeless throughout the region. He explained that One Roof developed Project Homeless Connect by pulling together health care officials, legal aid officials, etc., that the homeless typically do not have access to. The city's donation helps provide identification for these individuals. He stated that one of the largest obstacles the homeless have in getting a job is that often they don't have any form of identification.

The fourth activity is a match for infrastructure improvements on Lorna Road, in the amount of \$180,000, for a \$2.2 million federal grant the city received. The city's match for this grant is 20% of construction costs, which will take multiple years of CDBG financing.

Administration was funded at \$30,000. Mr. Westhoven explained that under HUD guidelines the city is eligible to fund 15% of what our total grant amount is toward administration. He noted we did not spend close to that 15%.

Following the 2012 Action Plan Status Report, Mr. Westhoven described the FY 2013 Income Guidelines associated with what makes up a low-to-moderate income individual. He explained that the guidelines are set by the federal government and is specific to Alabama and Jefferson County.

Mr. Westhoven then focused on the proposed activities for the 2013 Action Plan. He stated there are three activities we'd like to propose for next year. The first one being the Administration activity at \$30,000.

The second one being the After School Tutoring Program. He stated he'd like to propose approximately the same amount as in 2012, which was \$35,176. The third activity proposed is that the \$180,000 infrastructure match the city council adopted last year be carried forward. Based on the 2012 amount of \$270,176 that leaves a balance of approximately \$25,000 to allocate toward other projects.

Mr. Westhoven noted that the city received a letter from a company called Accessible Space, Inc. requesting help in repairing weather damage to Patton Ridge apartments on Rocky Ridge Road. He explained that Accessible Space owns and operates those apartments and that they are for low income individuals with physical disabilities, including adults with traumatic brain injuries.

Following the 2013 Proposed Projects Summary, Mr. Westhoven invited any comments, questions, or suggestions.

Hoover resident Marian Lowery voiced her concerns regarding the Emergency Home Repair Program and the After School Tutoring Program. Ms. Lowery stated she thinks that Habitat for Humanity isn't using the correct income guidelines. Mr. Westhoven explained that they are using the federal government's 2013 Income Guidelines. Ms. Lowery also stated education should be taken care of at home and that tutoring shouldn't come out of this grant.

Mr. Charles Priest, Executive Director of the Alabama Head Injury Foundation stated that he appreciates the city's hospitality in allowing their participation in the CDBG meeting. He described the extent of the damage to Patton Ridge apartments due to weather over the years. He stated that Accessible Space would be delighted to be the recipient of any remaining funds for the 2013 Action Plan year.

Mr. Westhoven thanked everyone for their participation, comments, and suggestions. He reminded everyone that the comment period is open for 30 days from the date of the public hearing and if anyone had additional questions or comments a form is provided in the handout packet for their convenience.

There being no further comments or questions, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Butler
Administrative Assistant