



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
April 10, 2018
MINUTES**

Members Present

Ron Crockett
Todd Dolehanty, Vice Chairman
Ella Kane
Chase Mitchell
Sid Oakley
Marjorie Tester
Dan Witcher, Chairman

Members Absent

Spence Flagg
Tiffany Walden

Others Present

Brian Rose, Staff
Christina Blevins, Staff

Call to Order & Roll Call:

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) meeting was called to order on April 10, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex by Chairman Dan Witcher. Dan asked if there were any changes to the agenda. None being heard, Dan continued on with the meeting.

Approval of Minutes, March 13, 2018, Meeting:

Dan Witcher asked for any changes or corrections to the March 13, 2018 meeting minutes. None being heard, Ella Kane moved the minutes be approved as presented; seconded by Todd Dolehanty; motion carried unanimously.

SPEAKERS – Kathy Waugh, Mary Anne Gibson & Adriana Cox - YWCA of Northeast Tennessee & Southwest Virginia

Dan welcomed the visitors from the YWCA to our CDAC meeting. Mary Anne Gibson introduced Adriana Cox, noting how proud she was of Adriana and the journey that she has lead. Adriana gave a testimonial about the help received at the YWCA, highlighting the “Moms Are Us Program” and the sliding-scale financial help for low-income families she utilized when she was just 19 years old. Adriana stated that she was a young, single-mom and without the sliding-scale payment help she would not have been able to work and go to school. She told the group she worked up to three part-time jobs and was on and off government assistance until Adriana had a private meeting with Mary Anne where they discussed her future. Soon after, Adriana said she enrolled in classes at Northeast State Community College studying Social Work where she earned her first 4.0 GPA. Adriana graduated from Northeast State in 2015 with cum laude honors and shortly after attended ETSU where she studied two more years of Social Work. Adriana explained that in her third year of school, she became pregnant with her second child. Adriana knew that there was no better place to send her daughter and since she was still in school and didn't have the income to pay full price for daycare, the sliding scale assistance was very

beneficial to her. Shortly before graduating last year, Adriana was accepted into the Advanced Standing Master's Degree Program for Social Work. She now has her bachelor's degree in Social work and is currently working on her Master's Degree. Adriana stated that when she was 19 and pregnant with her first child she didn't even know what graduate school was but she knew she would have to work hard and make money to take care of her family, now that she is 28 and another child later she is fulfilling her dream of making a better life for her and her children while still helping others. Adriana added that this past October she accepted her dream job working with at-risk high school students to help guide and support them before they graduate. Adriana continued with her appreciation to the YWCA for their guidance and support as she looks forward to the coming years with her family.

Kathy Waugh thanked CDAC for their financial support and noted that Adriana's story was not unique to the YWCA and unfortunately they have to turn other people like Adriana away everyday due to the current wait-list of over 165 children for daycare services. Kathy said it takes a village and with the City, United Way and the YW's fundraising efforts they have the financial support to make this program happen and be successful in our community. The lack of affordable childcare is still a huge barrier to employment and it's not only affordable childcare it's childcare slots period, money or grants for childcare from the government for licensed, structured care is not available Kathy added.

Discussion ensued between the committee members on the waitlist, childcare costs, challenges, state evaluations and potential of YWCA expanding daycare services.

Dan thanked the presenters and added contingent on the allocation of CDBG funding that CDAC has recommended support again this year in the amount of \$25,000 to the daycare for the sliding-scale program.

Old Business:

CDBG & HOME Consortium Projects - Christina handed out the March 2018 monthly report for the group to review as it applied to both CDBG and HOME Consortium projects. She noted that we had meet our Community Development goal of helping eight families this year. Christina is working on catching up with office work and the draft Action Plan. Several demolitions were still in the works.

2018-2019 Draft HUD Action Plan – Christina stated that the draft Action Plan was emailed out to everyone for review, she plugged in the same numbers as last year due to the fact the allocations had not been published yet. Christina added that she presented the draft Action Plan to City Council on April 2, 2018 for our second public hearing and our second 30-day comment period, our first public hearing and comment period was back in September 2017. Christina added that HUD does like comments from the public, so please review the draft document and let her know of any updates. Christina mentioned she delivered the draft Action Plan to the Bristol Public Library, the Slater Center, Bristol Housing, it was added to the City website and a copy was left in the Community Development office for public viewing. The 30-day comment period would end May 2, 2018. Dan asked if there was any public comments given last year to the HUD Action Plan, Christina noted that there were very few comments if any.

2018-19 Neighborhood Grant – Christina distributed updated 2018-19 Neighborhood Grant applications to the group. She noted that the Community Relations Department created and added a new logo and had been working on press releases for the grant. We have already had an interested group ask for the application. Christina asked the committee to take the applications and distribute them in the community and that applications are due June 29, 2018.

New Business:

Dan reminded the group of the called CDAC meeting in July to review the Neighborhood Grant applications and also reminded everyone that September was election time for new officers. Dan also added that if anyone was rotating off, please look for your replacement. Christina added that Spence and Ron were reappointed; however, this was Sid's last meeting. Brian also stated that this would be his last meeting too, as he has resigned effective May 4, 2018. The committee thanked Sid and Brian for their commitment to the Community Development Department and Bristol, Dan added that they would be missed.

Other Matters:

Christina shared the YWCA's Quarterly Activity Report (January – March 2018) with the group.

Sid mentioned the Poverty Simulator and discussed his experience.

Announcements & Adjournment:

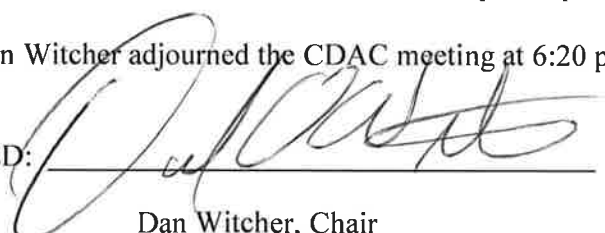
Ron invited the group to the annual meeting of the Salvation Army, April 24th, 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Ron is on the Salvation Army advisory board and would be glad to give tickets to those interested in a ticket.

Chase invited the group to the final Arts Alliance talk at the Bristol Public Library right after the CDAC meeting tonight with Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, a Bristol Author who has won the prestigious 2017 Newberry Prize.

Ella announced on April 28th was the annual Drug Take-Back event for unused prescriptions.

There being no other announcements, Dan Witcher adjourned the CDAC meeting at 6:20 p.m.

APPROVED: _____



Dan Witcher, Chair


Christina Blevins, Recorder

