

CDBG FY-2021 ANNUAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (via Zoom)

January 22, 2021 3:00 pm

The meeting was held remotely at the Alliance City Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 504 E. Main St., Alliance Ohio.

Present: Joe Mazzola, Director of Planning & Development
Mary Ann Campbell, Planning & Development
Jen Merriman, Deputy Director, Planning & Development
Vanessia Freeman, Administrative Assistant
Shane Howard, Zoning Inspector – remotely

Members: Cindy King, Committee Chairperson – remotely
Sheila Cherry, Committee member – remotely
Philip Mastroianni, Committee member – remotely
Jennifer Mastroianni, Committee member – remotely
Haven Ackley, Committee member – remotely
Emily Rhome, Committee member – remotely

Nancy Donato, Canton Ex-Newsboys – remotely
Carol Risaliti, Beacon Charitable Pharmacy – remotely
Niki McIlvain, Habitat for Humanity – remotely
Jody Koenigseker, Alliance Community Food Pantry – remotely
Kim Stanley, Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter – remotely
Liz Hibbs, Early Childhood Education (SPARK) – remotely
Denille Kemp, Assistant Fire Chief – remotely
Amanda Budette, citizen – remotely

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85123459149?pwd=bIVNRE8yV1RIS2s1djJLWkI3cG5pdz09>

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by **Chairperson Cindy King** at 3:00 pm.

II. GENERAL BUSINESS

The purpose of the meeting is to review the FY-2021 CDBG project applications and make recommendations to the Alliance City Council for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Mazzola began by stating that the meeting would be similar to years past in that he would review the amount awarded to the city by HUD, which is \$631,941.00 for the year 2021, and that there were \$8,000.00 in recaptured funds. He reported that 20% of the funds off the top are used for Administrative fees/salaries, and 15% would go for Public Services. He referenced the Funding Allocation sheet and that the city strives to use the money in the most beneficial and cost efficient way for the citizens of Alliance.

Mazzola reported on some of the Eligible Activities such as Emergency Board Ups, Demolitions and Historic Preservation dues. New this year is a program for the Zoning Department to address nuisance trees that can be targeted for removal. He said this is especially needed in a Legacy, or old city, that has older houses and older citizens without means to take care of these nuisance trees that could cause damage to life and property if they fall down. He said Housing Rehab funds are mainly used for emergency repairs, not full rehabs, that way the money can go farther and help more people. The City would also like to help fund another Habitat for Humanity home in 2021. The Alliance Food Pantry has applied for funding for a new floor, doors and windows. This year the City will fund the floor project and encourage them to apply for the doors and windows next year.

In reporting on the Public Services awards, **Mazzola** commented that in many cases the full requested amount could be awarded.

Cherry commented that she appreciated the new Tree Removal Program. **J. Mastroianni** questioned if there would be a bid process for a contractor to take the trees down. **Mazzola** reported yes.

Mazzola commented that the incoming HUD Secretary, Marcia Fudge and the Biden Administration could bode well for possible increases in CDBG funding in the near future.

P. Mastroianni questioned how many Demolitions could be done with \$70,000. **Mazzola** reported 7-10 depending on the costs for asbestos removal. He reports that the Health Department mainly steers this effort. **P. Mastroianni** also questioned whether trees targeted in the new Removal Program could be on private property or just in the right-of-way. **Mazzola** said trees on private property and right-of-ways could be eligible for Block Grant funds, mostly owner occupied. **Mastroianni** asked if residents would apply or would trees be designated for take down. **Mazzola** replied that trees would be identified using both processes.

Cherry questioned the role Shade Tree Commission would have with the Tree Removal Program. **Merriman** replied that the Removal Program would deal mainly with dying, diseased trees and only occasionally with problematic healthy trees, in which case Shade Tree would be consulted. **P. Mastroianni** questioned whether trees would be replanted after being taken down. **Merriman** said she would look into it and **Cherry** pointed out that if the owners were older, another tree, in most cases, would just create more work for them so having it gone once and for all should be the goal of the program.

Howard reported that in regards to the Tree Removal Program that he would be overseeing as Zoning Inspector, he already has 6 Violations waiting for action after approval of program funding. He commented that in his capacity as Zoning Inspector he sees the need for this program in the city and is excited about its implementation.

Merriman reports that there are 5 minutes remaining in the allotted meeting time. **Cherry** motions to adjourn, **P. Mastroianni** seconds the motion, **Chairperson King** reports that the motion is carried. Meeting is adjourned at 3:27 pm.

A recorded copy of this meeting will be on file at the City of Alliance Facebook page.

