

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CITIZEN ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

There was a meeting of the Indian River County (IRC) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Citizen Advisory Task Force (CATF) on Monday, March 12, 2007, at 3:05 p.m. in First Floor Conference Room "A" of the County Administration Building, 1840 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were members: Robert Keating, Joe Idlette, Mark Thomas, William Mosley, Victor Hart, Sr., Joe Wiggins, and Billie Minnis (arrived at 4:05 p.m.).

Absent were members: Chairman Effie Lyles, Gary C. Wheeler, Non-voting Commissioner Liaison; Ralph Lundy, Bernice Johnson, Arthur Harris, (all excused).

Also present were IRC Staff: Sasan Rohani, Chief Long Range Planner; Bill Schutt, Senior Economic Development Planner; Deputy Teddy Floyd, Sheriffs Department; Julianne Price, Environmental Specialist, Environmental Health Department; and Terri Collins-Lister, Staff Assistant IV. Others present: David Fox, Fred Fox Enterprises.

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Sasan Rohani, IRC Chief Long Range Planner, stated neither the Chairman nor the Vice Chairman was present at this time. He determined a quorum was present and since it was the first meeting of the year he opened the floor for nominations for Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

### **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Hart, SECONDED BY Mr. Keating, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to elect Mr. Mosley as Chairman of the Community Grant Block Grant Citizen Advisory Task Force for 2007.**

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Idlette, SECONDED BY Mr. Keating, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to elect Mr. Wiggins as Vice Chairman of the Community Grant Block Grant Citizen Advisory Task Force for 2007.**

## Approval of Minutes of the November 9, 2004 and December 5, 2005 Meetings

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Hart, SECONDED Mr. Idlette, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the November 9, 2004 and December 5, 2005 minutes as presented.**

## Status of the County's CDBG Activities for Housing Rehabilitation in the Gifford Area

Mr. David Fox, Fred Fox Enterprises, stated Fred Fox Enterprises administrated with the County, the Greenbelt Block Grant Housing project which has been completed. He mentioned 24 homes were built which exceeded the original goal of 16 homes and the close out package had been forwarded to the state of Florida's Department of Community Affairs.

Mr. Rohani stated of the 24 homes built, 20 were rehab and 4 of them were complete reappraisal. He reiterated the grant took three to four years to complete and noted the major problem was there were not an enough contractors to bid on these houses. It was asked if the full amount of the grant was utilized. Mr. Rohani replied in the affirmative and an additional \$360,000 from the State Housing Incentive Program (SHIP) was used.

Mr. Hart inquired on future grants because there were still some building needs. Mr. Rohani indicated since the close out package was submitted on time, the County was eligible to apply for another grant of \$750,000 and staff was looking at what grant the County could apply for.

Mr. Fox stated there were different types of grants, one in particular was the neighborhood grant which included water, sewer, and fire stations. He pointed out the grant was \$750,000 and would need a local match of \$250,000 to get the maximum points which was 50 additional points in the application. He continued the match could consist of local dollars and explained if it was a housing grant, SHIP funds could be used as the match.

Mr. Fox indicated it was a two step process for the grant which would start on April 20, 2007. Mr. Rohani reiterated just applying for the grant did not guarantee the grant would be awarded and told the committee that it was a good time to make suggestions on improvements.

Mr. Rohani told the committee the problem was the total score to qualify for the grant was 1000 points of which 250 points was a community-wide needs

score based on per capita income of the entire County. He stated with the beach area, the County only scores 60 out of 250.

Mr. Idlette said at one time there was a master plan for 45<sup>th</sup> Street that was never addressed. Mr. Rohani indicated the plan was to beautify 45<sup>th</sup> Street, the main road in the City of Gifford called Martin Luther King Boulevard and asked Mr. Fox if that was something the County could do. Mr. Fox suggested the plans and specifications were ready to submit for a permit and had to be in place to be competitive for the grant.

Mr. Wiggins wondered why the basis of the grant included the beach area and compared to the rest of the County, because he felt it was almost like a separate town. Mr. Rohani stated unfortunately it was a requirement to look at the entire County and it had been addressed to the state legislature and determined it could not be changed because it was federally funded. Mr. Wiggins expressed in parts of South County there were only two paved roads, no lighting or sewer.

A discussion ensued on disaster recovery funds.

Mr. Rohani asked for some suggestions for the new grant and noted he would get with Mr. Jim Davis, IRC Public Works Director, to see if there were any plans in place for the 45<sup>th</sup> Street beautification. Ms. Julianne Price, IRC Environmental Specialist, Environmental Health Department, mentioned although the beautification of 45<sup>th</sup> Street was a good thing, there was a whole community in the Wabasso Beach and the Oslo area that needed sewer. Mr. Fox agreed and noted beautification projects usually fell under a commercial grant and the least ranking item was trees and sidewalks.

A discussion followed regarding the beautification of 45<sup>th</sup> Street, lighting and putting in sewer lines. Mr. Keating told the committee the street lights for Oslo could not be done through the CDBG, but through a street lighting district in which would be paid for through taxes.

Chairman Mosley wanted to see the committee apply for Economic Development funds to generate business in the low income areas. Mr. Fox stated the Economic Development cycle for funding opens on April 20, 2007 and stays open until the funds were depleted unlike the other grants.

Mr. Rohani concluded there were three projects for a neighborhood grant that would be reviewed to see how many points each of the items would bring and if it could be done. Chairman Mosley asked if there was a way to combine the Gifford, Wabasso, and Oslo areas into a single grant and strictly use the

funds for those areas. Mr. Fox stated it could be done, however if asking for funds to provide running water and sewer lines to each area, in most cases it would be better to do one area than to do a little bit in each area. He continued the larger the project, the better the bid price would be. A discussion followed on matching funds, SHIP funds and impact fees.

Mr. Rohani emphasized these projects were very expensive and \$750,000 would not go very far. Chairman Mosley suggested that some of the funds come from the County's Budget because individuals in these areas were paying taxes and felt 2% of the budget should go back into the community. Mr. Keating stated Mr. Jason Brown, IRC Budget Director, should be present to discuss this matter further. Chairman Mosley requested another CDBG Meeting and invited Mr. Brown to look at the different options to see what was available. It was decided to schedule a meeting on April 9, 2007 to further look at the points for the items presented and to get something in writing to be voted on.

### **Proposed Changes to the CDBG Disaster Recovery Initiative Application**

Mr. Bill Schutt, IRC Senior Economic Development Planner handed out a memorandum of the Proposed Changes to the CDBG Disaster Recovery Initiative Application and a summary sheet of the proposed amendment, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Mr. Fox indicated the County had received \$7,500,000 in funding to assist the County in their recovery from the effects of the 2004 hurricanes through the Department of Community Affairs. The initial scope of work was the Rockridge project which consisted of the two projects: sewer and drainage. He continued based on a timeline, the Rockridge project had to be completed by August 2007. The issue with the drainage project was the amount of flow coming in was more than what they had determined originally and the problem was trying to find the proper location. He opined instead of the project not being completed by August and the potential of losing \$2.1 million dollars, it was recommended to reallocate the funds to sewer and the rehab of two fire stations.

Mr. Fox discussed the proposed changes contained in the memorandum and emphasized there were no new projects but they wanted to use as much of the grant dollars instead of the local dollars on the existing projects. Mr. Fox explained that under the program, any amendment that reduces a project also requires a public hearing and a recommendation from the County's Citizens Advisory Task Force as well as approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Idlette, SECONDED BY Mr. Hart, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve Amendment #2, the Indian River County, Community Development Disaster Recovery Grant as proposed in the memorandum.**

**UNDER DISCUSSION**, Mr. Idlette mentioned the \$9 million project and felt that most of the recommendations came from staff and the committee has had very little input on how to utilize those funds.

Mr. Keating left at 3:55 p.m.

Mr. Fox explained on the emergency funds, the items that were addressed needed proof from the health department along with backup documentation that these items were related to the storms and would fit into certain categories.

Mr. Idlette opined a lot of the funds had been put into fire stations and felt it should be financed through County funds. He requested in the future, the committee's input be obtained prior to the final conclusion on how to use the funds.

Chairman Mosley inquired on the fire station proposed on 49<sup>th</sup> Street in the Gifford area. Mr. Fox stated it could be added to the list of items for the grant.

Mr. Minnis arrived at 4:05 p.m.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Hart, SECONDED BY Mr. Idlette, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to add to the list of items for the proposed grant to Mr. David Fox, the beautification of 45<sup>th</sup> Street, paving, drainage and sewer lines in Oslo, Sewer lines and hookups for West Wabasso and the Gifford Fire station to be located on the donated property on 49<sup>th</sup> Street.**

Mr. Thomas stated for the record, the Housing Authority has submitted for a portion of those funds from the proposed grant. Mr. Fox stated under the grant dollars, the whole \$750,000 had to be used for either neighborhood or housing but could not do partial neighborhood and partial housing.



## **Discussion and Comments**

It was discussed for a follow-up meeting to be held on April 9th at 3 p.m. and asked for Mr. Brown to attend that meeting.

Mr. Idlette addressed the committee members that Mr. Harris and Mr. Lundy were unable to participate in the meeting due to health concerns and that Ms. Johnson had passed away and asked the process be started to replace these members.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.