MAYOR'S ADVISORY BOARD
ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
1st HEARING
Morton Community Center
222 N. Chauncey Ave. Room 106
West Lafayette, IN 47906
February 24, 2015

Members of the Advisory Board present: Richard Bossung, Andrea Wellnitz, Monica Waters, Michael Loizzo and Sieb Siebenthal. Also present: Department of Development staff Dale Dixon, City Council members, Ann Hunt, Peter Bunder, and Gerald Thomas. Representatives from other city departments and local public service agencies were also in attendance.

Chairman Bossung called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Advisory Board members introduced themselves. Public service agency representatives were asked to provide their name and the agency they are representing at the beginning of their presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

Andrea Wellnitz moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2014 CDBG public hearing. Michael Loizzo seconded. The minutes were approved as written 5-0.

There was no further old business.

NEW BUSINESS

All Advisory Board members were provided with a Performance Review for the program year 2013-2014 and a Progress Report covering July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014. The reports summarized how grant funds were spent over the 18 month period. Dale Dixon noted the information is also available on the City's website and in the Department of Development. The Executive Summary as submitted in the 2013 CAPER was also included for review. A copy of each request for funding was provided to the Advisory Board. The 2015 program year is from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The 2015-2016 total grant amount is $307,715. Questions and comments were requested.

Dale Dixon explained HUD regulations limit the total amount allocated to public service agencies to 15% of the total grant, and administrative funding is limited to 20% of the total grant. A map of the West Lafayette infrastructure improvement target area was provided. Public service agencies may assist people anywhere within the West Lafayette city limits.

Summary of the reduction of the total grant amounts was explained by Dale Dixon. Over the past five years, the City of West Lafayette has seen a grant reduction

from $477,115 to $307,715. The actual amount of the 2015-2016 grant is $307,715 therefore, decisions made on today's presentation will be final.

REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

1. Dale Dixon from the **Department of Development** requested **General Program Administration** funding of $30,000 for the 2015-2016 program year. He commented that the request was only 9.75% of the grant and this is the second year that the request was well below the allowed 20% grant amount. Up to a 20% administrative reimbursement to New Chauncey Housing, Inc. is included in the City's request.

2. As a continuation of the City's ADA Transition Plan, Assistant Superintendent Pennie Ainsworth of the West Lafayette **Parks Department** requested $25,000. Funding will be used to continue to bring the City parks into **ADA compliance** with such items as sidewalk/path widening, and the installation of concrete pads to accommodate wheelchairs, van accessible parking and railings. The Department has 12 City parks that are used by citizens of the all ages in the Greater Lafayette Community.

3. Lynn Layden requested $6,000 for the **West Lafayette Tree Friends** to plant of **26 2" shade trees** between the curb and sidewalk in the area of Meridian from Grant to Northwestern, on Vine from Stadium to Fowler, and Stadium from Salisbury to Grant Street. Recent census figures show this as a low-moderate income target area.

4. Ed Garrison spoke on behalf of the City of West Lafayette **Engineering Department** which requested $180,000 for the **Sidewalk/Curb Replacement & Curb Ramp Installation Program**. The funds will be used to replace deteriorating sidewalk and curb and update curb ramps to ADA compliance along 5th Street and also spot repairs on 6th Street from Russell to University. CDBG funds are combined with funding from other sources which allows the City to leverage funds and maximize improvements in this heavily traveled area.

5. Assistant Director of Development Dale Dixon spoke for **New Chauncey Housing, Inc. (NCHI)**, who requested $70,000. The organization's goal is to increase home ownership by providing safe and affordable homes for low to moderate income persons while stabilizing and preserving neighborhoods. NCHI purchases, rehabilitates and resells homes to persons who qualify for assistance under HUD guidelines. Emergency repair assistance to owner occupied properties and down payment financial assistance is also offered to income-eligible persons.

6. Executive Director Jennifer Layton of **Lafayette Transitional Housing Center** requested $10,000 for the **Family and Singles Supportive Housing Program** which operates a total of six programs that are all targeted to helping the homeless. The two transitional housing programs which are being redesigned into two permanent supportive housing programs were explained. Housing will be provided to both homeless families and individuals. Both programs provide case managers to connect tenants with needed services to remain permanently housed.

7. Executive Director Jennifer Layton of **Lafayette Transitional Housing Center** requested $8,000 for the **Homeless Services Program** which is for anyone in Tippecanoe County who is homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. A variety of supportive services is offered onsite including intensive case management. Intake and Triage specialists work with each person in their housing crisis. Their goal is to either divert someone from entering the homeless services system, or provide the appropriate referrals to quickly end someone's housing crisis. Case managers assist consumers in developing a plan of how to overcome their homelessness.

8. Joyce Fasani, Shelter Director for **Lafayette Urban Ministry (LUM)** requested $7,000 for the **Emergency Homeless Shelter**. The shelter is open 365 nights a year. In 2014, emergency shelter was provided for 702 clients for a total of 11,949 bed nights. The average length of stay was 17 nights. All guests utilizing the shelter are required to participate in case management which evaluates their present situation, future goals and required services. A winter contingency plan is in place to provide shelter in extreme weather. LUM also works with several of the local churches to provide shelter in the event of over occupancy. The mission of LUM's Emergency Homeless Shelter is to help homeless men and women get off the street, out of the shelter and into long term, stable housing.

9. **Family Services, Inc.** Lisa Marie Lucy requested $3,300 for the **Reliance Homecare Program**. The program assists elderly and disabled persons who are unable to perform routine daily living activities such as light housekeeping, laundry, grocery shopping, meal preparation, and bill paying. The main goal of the program is to enable clients to remain living independently in their own homes and to assist in maintaining a safe and healthy home environment. Homemakers often provide a necessary link to family members, and other agencies involved in their care should there be concerns such as changes in the clients' level of functioning, safety concerns, etc. A sliding fee scale is used to determine the cost of services. The Home Care Program estimates six West Lafayette homebound elderly or disabled residents will be served in 2015.

10. Executive Director Katy Bunder requested $5,000 for **Food Finders Food Bank, Inc. Food Finders Food Bank** is a warehouse and distribution center that receives food from grocery stores, manufacturers, salvage brokers, and food drives and distributes it for 19¢ per pound. Paper products including diapers and person hygiene items are also offered at the same price. Many products, including produce, are offered at no cost. Food is received in large quantities and sorted, stored, repackaged, refrigerated, frozen and redistributed to 164 agencies in 16 counties in Mid-North Indiana. When the pounds of food an agency gets for 19¢ is averaged with what they get for free, the cost per pound in Tippecanoe County is 4¢ per pound. Food Finders coordinates the BackPack program in Tippecanoe and surrounding counties and also distributes food weekly through a mobile food pantry. CDBG grant funds provide food to shelters that serve West Lafayette residents. An increased demand is anticipated for food distribution in 2015.

11. **YWCA - Domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention Program** (DVIPP) Director Jasmine Dowd requested $12,000 for their **Domestic Violence Intervention**

and Prevention Program; a 24-hour shelter which serves victims of domestic violence and their dependent children. Last year 63 residents of West Lafayette were offered shelter and/or protective orders through the program. Each client has a safe place to stay for 30 - 45 days, access to food, hygiene products, transportation, clothing, school supplies, work items, medical assistance, counseling, legal assistance, childcare assistance and basic necessities free of charge. The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day. The YWCA DVIPP program anticipates assisting 60 West Lafayette residents in 2015.

12. **The Center @ Jenks Rest** (Tippecanoe Council on Aging), Executive Director, Bill Glick, requested $4,280 for the **Senior Home Repair Program**. The program provides repairs to homes owned by seniors 62 years and older and/or disabled citizens who are within the city limits of West Lafayette and are at low to moderate income levels. Repairs can include such things as replacement of bathroom fixtures, roof repair or replacement, sewer line hook-ups, building accessible additions such as entrance/exit ramps, replacement of heating and cooling appliances, water heater replacement and replacement of window and/or doors. Referrals for repairs often come from NCHI who works in cooperation with The Center @ Jenks Rest. HUD regulations limit the amount of CDBG funds spent on any one homeowner to $3,000.

Advisory Board Guidance

Members of the Advisory Board and Common Council were advised that ratings sheets to rank each proposal and suggest an amount of funding for each project will be sent by email. Dale Dixon reviewed the format of the ratings sheets and requested completed forms be returned to the Department of Development no later than Friday, March 13 by 4:30 p.m. Limits for each category were reviewed. A comparison of last year's award amount and this year's requests was provided for each proposal.

The next public hearing will be Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the West Lafayette Public Library at which time funding amounts for each project will be announced. All allocations must be approved by the Advisory Board. Chairman Bossung requested the Council be reminded to participate in the ratings. Questions were requested.

Public Comment

Public comment was requested. There was no further business.

Andrea Wellnitz moved to adjourn. Monica Waters seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Approved:

/djk