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2006 JUN -5 P 4: 25

MINUTES

WILSON DEERFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7:00 P.M.

MAY 24, 2005

COMMUNITY ROOM

WINDSOR COMMUNITY CENTER

330 WINDSOR AVENUE

WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

PUBLIC HEARING

Members Present

Frank Jacobs, Chairman
Lee Paslaski
Shirley Morrisson

Guests

Bradsaw Smith
Carolyn Polkey
Jim Hallisey
Patrick McMahon
Gaye Rizzo
Trevor Thorington
Alvin Bingham
Todd Penney
Jackie Bokun
Jerry Columbia
Melinda Cusson

Please note, the public hearing was moved from the Activity Room to the Community Room within the Windsor Community Center. Signage was posted accordingly.

The public hearing was called to order at 7:07.

Jim Hallisey noted that the intent of the public hearing was to 1) solicit feedback on the Town's current community development initiatives, 2) seek input on the needs of the community in general and the needs of low/moderate income residents in particular, 3) seek suggestions for activities for which the Town should seek Community Development Block Grant funds and 4) allow for public comment on the proposed reprogramming of \$55,000 in program income to be used for the Wilson Branch Library.

Hallisey indicated that in order to qualify for Community Development Block Grant funds an activity must meet one of three (3) national objectives; 1) assist low/moderate incomer persons, 2) eliminate or prevent blight, or 3) address an urgent community development need for which no other resources were available. Eligible activities include housing rehabilitation, infrastructure improvement, commercial rehabilitation,

economic development projects, public services, ADA improvements, acquisition and historic preservations.

Jerry Columbia noted that the Wilson area has seen considerable neglect and something needs to be done about it. The condition of the median, litter and the strain the mosque puts on residents of White Rock Drive were particular areas of concern.

Alvin Bingham questioned the use of Town staff for the oversight of project. He noted concerns about the improvements to Corey Street. He suggested that the Town consider using an outside consulting firm.

Trevor Thorington inquired as whether CDBG funds could be used to acquire property for low/moderate income housing. Hallisey responded that ultimately what the Town chooses to apply for is determined by the Town Council but, yes, acquisition of property for low/moderate income housing is in fact an eligible activity under the CDBG Program. Bradshaw Smith suggested that the Town apply for funds to refurbish the Wilson Branch Library. He noted that this suggestion has been brought up on previous occasions and the Town has never followed through.

Todd Penney, Project Engineer for the Town of Windsor noted that there is a need for additional funds for Pleasant Street. A letter from Tom Lenehan, Town Engineer was read into the record detailing the particulars.

Bradshaw Smith noted that improvements to the Wilson Branch Library have been identified as both an eligible activity and a need on several previous occasions.

There was also a brief discussion about the proposed reprogramming of \$55,000 to commence work on the Wilson Branch Library. The specific improvement proposed at this time would involve the construction of a vestibule at the entrance off the rear parking area. The vestibule would help cut down on heat loss, improve the comfort level of the library, and provide for an indoor book drop that would be separated from the Library by a firewall and protect the contents from the weather. It was noted that the book drop is used not for books, but for books on tapes and videos as well.. It was suggested that sufficient funds be reprogrammed to construct the vestibule and to provide planning funds so as to move forward with additional renovations.

The public hearing was closed at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Hallisey, The Office of Community Development

RECEIVED
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To: James Hallisey, Community Development Coordinator
From: Tom Lenehan, Town Engineer
Subject: Reconstruction of Pleasant Street
Date: May 17, 2006

The Town is finalizing the design for the reconstruction of Pleasant Street in Windsor and intends to advertise the project for bidding in June, 2006. The current estimate for this reconstruction is \$1,210,000. This is above the previous estimate that formed the basis for requesting both Town funding, and a grant from the CDBG funds. Previously the estimate was \$934,000, with the Town funding \$334,000, with \$600,000 from CDBG funds.

Between the time of the original estimate and the current estimate, the factors that caused the estimated costs to increase included a significant rise in asphalt prices that caused the cost of bituminous concrete to go from \$60 per ton to \$70 per ton. Additionally, meeting with the residents and responding to their concerns increased the scope to allow for additional lighting and traffic calming measures, including the introduction of speed humps at various locations. Environmental reviews of the project introduced changes in the storm drainage system and the installation of a sedimentation chamber. Time delay in the completion and receipt of the environmental permits has added cost. Consultant fees have also been increased to respond to the requested or required changes.

Based on the above, it is requested that you pursue the possibility of obtaining additional CDBG funding to ensure completion of this project.

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