

Planning Board Minutes  
June 4, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.  
Town Council Chambers  
125 Main Street  
East Greenwich, RI

Members Present: Stephen Brusini; Bill Stone; John Ayotte; and Chris Russo.

Members Absent: Chuck Newton, Vice-Chair; Michael Donegan; and Jason Gomez.

Staff Present: Lisa Bourbonnais, Planning Director and Juliana M. (Berry) King, Planning Technician.

Mr. Brusini called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and introduced the members and staff present.

**1. Review/approval of the Town's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application's consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, including Certification, to forward to the Town Council.**

Mr. Brusini made sure that all of the Board members present, with the exception of Mr. Russo, have gone through this process at least once. Mr. Brusini reminded the Board that their charge is simply to certify that the application is consistent with the Comp Plan, although extra information in the recommendation to the Town Council has been included in the past.

Ms. Bourbonnais summarized a few of the changes in the process this year, most notably how delayed the deadlines are. There is also a reduced pot of funds available (\$150,000) with the caveat that there are additional "set-aside" monies for prioritized activities like residential rehabilitation. These other funds, if awarded to an activity in East Greenwich, would eventually be added to the Town's contract.

The Staff-prepared memo's prioritization reflects the sub-recipients' low-mod benefit to EG, from the most percentage served to the least, in keeping with

the Board's practice in recent years. Ms. Bourbonnais remarked that the Board has typically voted using the words "not inconsistent" instead of just "consistent" because not all of the organizations and activities are specifically mentioned in the Comp Plan.

Mr. Russo asked about the competitive quality of the Small Cities Block Grant Program, and Ms. Bourbonnais told him that the State has its own ranking system and East Greenwich usually falls at the top of the bottom third mostly due to the fact that the Town doesn't have as great a need as do other municipalities. All the other communities at the \$150,000 level are competing with each other, essentially, and the sub-recipients then are vying with each other for the percentage of the possible full amount awarded to the Town. That final ranking, done by the State's reviewing committee and ultimately signed into law by the Governor, is partly influenced by the local prioritization.

Mr. Ayotte wondered why Town-Wide Housing Rehabilitation has a "TBD" associated amount, and noted that the project proposals don't add up to \$150,000. Ms. Bourbonnais answered that the Housing Rehab activity is part of one of the set-asides but will be listed in the Town's application; it has an ongoing submittal process. The application, with \$10,000 for administration, will total \$127,908 because that is the sum of the requested amounts; the sub-recipient requests can't be changed by the Board or Council because the organizations rely on precise budgets.

Mr. Stone questioned Washington County CDC's benefit to EG. Ms. Berry responded that it was thanks to the CDC adding the Town on to its sessions that the application can satisfy the fair housing requirement, which is new this year. Ms. Bourbonnais elaborated that fair housing has to do with education on non-discriminatory practices of leasing and buying housing as well as assisting with finding appropriate housing.

Mr. Brusini requested and received confirmation that Welcome House of South County's benefit to East Greenwich has to do with ensuring that any (former) resident who seeks help from Welcome House won't be turned away. Mr. Brusini also sought clarification on the nature of the facility on Grand View, and Ms. Bourbonnais explained that it falls under the category of

group home but it is home to 3 women who receive disability assistance but otherwise live independently.

Mr. Brusini opened the hearing up to public comment, but there were none.

Motion by Mr. Stone to certify that the PY2014 Community Development Block Grant application for East Greenwich is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and forward it to the Town Council. Second by Mr. Russo. Approved 4 – 0 – 0.

**2. Minutes of Meetings: March 19, 2014, May 7, 2014, and May 21, 2014**

Regarding the March 19, 2014 minutes:

Continued to the next meeting

Regarding the May 7, 2014 minutes:

Continued to the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Regarding the May 21, 2014 minutes:

VOTE: 3 – 0 – 0 to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2014 meeting as written.

**3. Planning Board Member Comments: For items not on the agenda and not relating to specific applications.**

Ms. Bourbonnais updated the Board that there will have to be a 6/18 meeting- the recently required update of the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan necessitates a public vetting of the planning document; this will be accomplished in the forum of a Planning Board meeting. The Plan doesn't actually need the Board's input but rather the hearing will provide an opportunity for the public to participate and comment.

In response to a question from Mr. Ayotte, Ms. Bourbonnais stated that the update has been outsourced but the contracted company is utilizing the data gathered by Town staff.

With no further business, there was a motion by Mr. Russo, second by Mr. Ayotte, to adjourn at 7:22 p.m.. Motion unanimously supported.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Juliana M. (Berry) King,  
Planning Technician

For more information, please refer to the recording available in the Planning Department.