

**DOVER PLANNING BOARD
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT WORKSHOP
MINUTES
MARCH 22, 2005**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Trefethen, Tony McManus, Mindy Anderson, Pete Lavoie, Donald Andolina, Beth Thompson, Frank Torr, Ron Cole, Dennis Ciotti, Bryan Cahoon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erik Tooke, John Swartzendruber

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Stancel, Planning Director; Rick Jones, Community Development Coordinator and Jacqueline Freeman, Recording Secretary

Chairman Cole opened the workshop at 6:04 PM.

Chairman Cole explained that the purpose of the workshop is to discuss the CDBG allocations and if the Board wishes, action can be taken during the regular meeting.

Steve Stancel explained that there are a couple of numbers that the Board will have to stick fairly hard and fast to in the Public Service Agencies section – there is a 15% cap on the expenditure of the funds. The number that can be spent is \$73,898 and requests were received in the amount \$135,798. Some cuts will have to occur. In the Administration, Rehabilitation, Public Facilities and Economic Development section the maximum that we have is \$564,795 and requests were received in the amount of \$691,669. There again we are over by \$126,000.

Rick Jones said that there is a correction under Dover Adult Learning Center, the priority rating should be a Medium and it is marked as a High. The McConnell Center recommendation for the elevator has been changed to general improvements. It could go to ADA or to other improvements for the McConnell Center. Rick explained that they looked at the agencies and applied the priority rating and the effect that they have on the population and the clients that they serve in Dover and made their recommendations from that. He explained that they took the agencies that they recommended for funding, the amount that they were funded last year and dropped that down by 15% and from there whittling it down to keep everyone roughly at the same percentage of funding to get to the maximum \$73,898.

Dean Trefethen asked if the program administration is a % or a fixed amount.

Rick Jones answered that it is a percentage. It is 20% of the grant amount plus program income from that current year. He explained that it is part of his salary, as well as part of the salary for part of the City Planner, part of the Planning Director and part of the secretary for the Planning Office. He said that the City received about 5.3% less this year

than last year which equates to about \$20,000 to \$22,500. Under the Federal budget that was submitted by the Bush Administration, he proposed total elimination of the CDBG program and wrapping 18 other programs in together under one program that was going to be run by the Department of Commerce. CDBG was funded at 4.7 billion dollars and the new programs including CDBG was slated for funding at 3.1 billion dollars. He said that there has been a lot of lobbying on all of the Cities' parts, and by the mayors throughout the country. The amount for CDBG was reinstated by Congress just this past week.

Dean Trefethen asked if under the McConnell Center improvements, the recommended \$98,000 is additional money over and above what has been approved elsewhere.

Steve Stancel stated that was correct. He said that back in December the projected cost for the McConnell Center, just to bring the building up to code, was 3.7 million dollars and the Council bonded 2.5 million leaving 1.2 million to potentially either be fund raised or to have monies come from elsewhere or to go back to the Council next year. He added that one of the reasons that they felt comfortable dropping Dover Adult Learning Center is that they did speak with the contractor who had made the bid and he had put in additional money in his original bid to cover potential costs overruns. Also included in his projection was some 50 sprinkler heads, which is actually going to come out of the 2.5 million dollars. He felt comfortable that the 155,000 should cover the cost. Additionally, there may be other funds available. The CDBG program owns a parcel of land off the Indian Brook Drive that was originally going to be a fire station. It was always anticipated that once the fire station went in there the City would buy the land from CDBG for the fair market value. Now the State of NH is going to use it for a Park n' Ride and we anticipate that money coming in this coming fiscal year. He feels comfortable that the monies received from that, will be additional monies that they can, if DALC needs more money, go through the Planning Board and the City Council to allocate additional money to this project as it comes in.

Donald Andolina asked if the provision for the elevator would be removed.

Steve Stancel stated that originally, the \$185,000 was for the cost of an elevator but as they started talking there were numerous needs at the McConnell Center and many of them are CDBG eligible. It seemed to make sense to them that instead of specifically allocating this \$98,000 towards an elevator that they would allocate it towards the McConnell Center and it may be used towards an elevator or other handicap accessibility improvements. If not used for an elevator, then there would have to be additional monies eventually for an elevator.

Dean Trefethen asked with regard to DALC if it is their intention to move the entire program to the McConnell Center or is this going to be additional space and they are still going to maintain the present building.

Steve Stancel stated that it is their intention to move the entire program to the Mc Connell Center and what this dollar amount represents is doing that. There hasn't been a final

decision made by the DALC board yet. The subcommittee for the McConnell Center is meeting with DALC Friday morning. The fate of their present building still has to be determined but preliminary concepts are that it would be torn down and that the area would be used as a playground area for the facility. He added that a small amount of parking may be included but one of the problems with some of the preliminary concepts of the McConnell Center and with the Dover Children's Center potentially going there, is where would we have a playground the front of the building is that we wouldn't like to have a playground in the front of the building. Putting the playground on their existing lot works better. It is such a small lot that they looked at it for parking and you couldn't fit a lot of cars in there but they may be able to put some head in parking directly off the street.

Donald Andolina suggested that they go over the applicants one by one in case there are any questions.

Chairman Cole went over each item and gave the amount requested and the Planning Department recommendations.

Ron Cole ended by saying that the total Public Service Agencies total recommendation is \$73,989.

Chairman Cole went over each item in the Administration, Rehabilitation, Public Facilities and Economic Development section and the total recommendation is \$638,693.

The workshop ended at 6:30 PM.