

Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee (CDCAC) Meeting
September 4, 2019
2100 Clarendon Blvd – Room 311

Members Present: Kenneth Robinson, Rolf Blank, Zachary Butler Maryclare Whitehead, Greg Bramham, Diane Duston, Linda Hearne, Rosemary Leffler, Larry Withers, Linc Cummings

Staff: Caitlin Jones, Jennifer Daniels, Richard Tucker

Members of the Public: Tom Wilson, Northern Virginia Dental Clinic; Esayas Gebrehiwot, Enterprise Development Group; Jeff Hoffman, ASPIRE! Afterschool Learning; Jorge Figueredo, Edu-Futuro; Luis Aguilar, CASA

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

1. FY 2021 Action Plan Public Hearing

A public hearing on the FY 2021 Annual Action Plan was held to solicit feedback on the needs of low- and moderate-income households in Arlington County. The Annual Action Plan is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) required document that describes federal grant allocations, objectives, activities, and performance measures for goals identified in the 5-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2016-2021 related to affordable housing, homelessness, community development, citizen participation and institutional structure.

Tom Wilson from the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic commented that while there are several community priorities in Arlington, he believes that healthcare has not been addressed enough. This includes primary healthcare, dental health or mental health. NVDC serves 11,500-12,000 appointments per year and need is increasing. NVDC urged the County to focus on healthcare more prominently.

Esayas Gebrehiwot from Enterprise Development Group provided an overview of the EDG, which introduces microenterprise services to low-income communities in Arlington. Given the affiliation with ECDC, the organization has direct access to the immigrant and refugee communities that are being assimilated to the community. Esayas argued that microfinance for small businesses, particularly those that cannot access traditional lending models, is a critical economic development tool that is traditionally underfunded.

Jeff Hoffman from ASPIRE! Afterschool Learning provided an overview of the organization, which has been around for 25 years, and is focused on afterschool learning opportunities for 3rd-5th graders, mostly on children who live in affordable housing. Typically serve students that have literacy issues, Aspire provides opportunities for improving reading skills. Given the partnership with six Arlington Public Schools that the organization routinely works from, the organization hears routinely from teachers that there is a bigger and bigger need for reading and literacy support.

Jorge Figueredo from Edu-Futuro provided an overview of the organization, which provides multigenerational approach for students and families. Jorge explained that according to VDOE, 13.6% of Hispanic students and limited proficiency students drop out of high school. Edu-Futuro tries to address this statistics through established middle school and high school programs. Jorge also mentioned that digital literacy is a huge issue for parents of APS students since the school system is digitizing everything.

Luis Aguilar from CASA provided an overview of the organizations, which is an immigrant rights organization, focus on building power within the LatinX and immigrant community. Luis commented that there is an increased need for immigrant advocacy and rights given the national political climate.

2. Approval of June 6, 2018 and June 5, 2019 CDCAC Minutes

The June 2018 and June 2019 were approved unanimously.

3. Housing Arlington Overview:

Richard Tucker, the interim Housing Arlington Coordinator provided an update about the Housing Arlington Initiative. The County Board announced the initiative in April 2019 to build upon existing finance planning, and policy tools. It is an umbrella program that will take a proactive, expanded approach to reach an equitable, stable, adaptive community. Over a multi-year period, the program will generate holistic housing solutions through planning and implementation tools, housing policy, financial resources, and innovative local and regional public-private partnerships. The County is looking for new ideas and new approaches to strengthening and expanding its existing housing toolbox. Housing Arlington involves 6 separate initiatives:

- Land Use Tools
- Financial Tools
- Institutional Partnerships
- County Employee Housing
- Condominium Initiative
- Affordable Housing Master Plan Review

Linc Cummings recommended that the County look at smaller housing types to encourage affordability. Ken Robinson suggested that the County look into how to build more efficient, less expensive housing, including amending building codes to make housing development less expensive. Diane Duston suggested looking at property tax relief for single-family housing owners that house low-income tenants. In addition, a recommendation was made to limit the house size by lot size through permitting. Maryclare Whitehead suggested that Housing Arlington staff track rental prices of accessory dwellings to see if they are renting at an affordable price.

4. FY 2019 draft Consolidated Plan Action Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

County staff walked the committee through the fiscal year 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), which is HUD's annual reporting requirement for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. While the County is only required to report to HUD the accomplishments related to the CDBG and HOME programs, the County also includes accomplishments for programs funded through other Community Development Fund sources, CSBG, TANF and AHIF Housing Services. In FY 2019, over 30 programs were funded by the Community Development Fund through a combination of CDBG, CSBG, TANF, and AHIF Housing Services, totaling over \$1.5 million in grants. Donated volunteer time for programs supported by the Community Development Fund was valued at approximately \$800,000. Subrecipients leveraged over \$5 million in sources other than CDBG, CSBG, TANF or AHIF Housing Services for Community Development Fund programs. Staff also reviewed

the PR-26 and PR-01 HUD reports, which detail the financial and accomplishment summary of CDBG programs.

Maryclare Whitehead asked staff to follow up with Legal Aid Justice Center and Just Neighbors to explain the variance in the expected and actual numbers in FY 2019. This issue was addressed during the FY 2021 Community Development Fund application review process.

5. FY 2021 Notice of Funding Availability Overview and Process

Staff walked through the evaluation criteria and the schedule for the FY 2021 NOFA review process. There were no questions or suggestions from Committee members.

6. Staff Report

Nothing to report.

7. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

8. Member Reports

Nothing to report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.