

**CITY OF PORTERVILLE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**February 27, 2018 5:30 p.m.  
City Hall Coleman Conference Room  
291 N Main St. Porterville CA 93257**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions**
- 2. Oral Communication**
- 3. Minutes from March 1, 2017, Meeting**
- 4. Public Hearing to Consider the Draft PY 2018/2019 Action Plan Inclusive of Proposed Use of Funds**
- 5. Oral Communications**
  - a. Housing Rehabilitation including Public Utility Assistance Revolving Loan Program and ADA Accessible Exterior Wheel Chair Ramp Program
  - b. First-Time Low-Income Homebuyer Loan Program
  - c. Homebuyer Education Program
  - d. Shelter + Care Program for the Homeless
  - e. Kings/Tulare Continuum of Care on Homelessness
  - f. Business Assistance Programs
  - g. Park Improvement Program
  - h. City-Operated Youth Center
  - i. Heritage Center - Section 108 Loan Debt Service
  - j. Land Acquisition
  - k. Clearance
  - l. Disposition
  - m. CDBG Planning and Administration
- 6. Adjourn**

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Community Development Block Grant Citizens' Advisory  
and Housing Opportunity Committee Meeting  
March 1, 2017  
Minutes

Members present: Maria Gonzalez, Linda Mendez, Grace Munoz-Rios, Kelle Jo Lowe, Doug Heusdens, and Pat Contreras (via phone).

Members absent: Rebecca Vigil

Staff Present: Jenni Byers, Jason Ridenour, Ashley Sizemore, Claudia Calderon and Donnie Moore.

General Public: none

The meeting was opened by Jenni Byers at 5:30 p.m.

**Item No. 1 – WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION**

Jenni Byers welcomed everyone to the meeting. Each Committee member introduced themselves for the record. Staff was announced.

**Item No. 2 – ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Jenni Byers opened Oral Communications at 5:34 pm and asked if there had been any written communication received. There were none and no public are present. Oral Communications was closed at 5:34 pm.

**Item No. 3 – MINUTES FROM MARCH 28, 2016 MEETING**

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

MOVED by Linda Mendez and SECONDED by Grace Munoz-Rios to accept the minutes of March 28, 2016 as submitted with the correction of the date.

AYES: 6  
NOES: 0  
ABSENT: 1

**Item No. 4 – PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER 2017/2018 ACTION PLAN INCLUSIVE OF PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS**

Jenni Byers gave an overview of the Plan and presented a slideshow presentation to the Committee. Jenni Byers informed the Committee that, because HUD has not announced yet what the program's allocations will be, that most of the figures in the Plan are guesswork based on last

year's Plan. She brought up the Section 108 debt loan, mentioned that it was refinanced and opened it for discussion. She explained the breakdown of the payments for the next couple of years and explained that in 2022 the loan will be paid off and a new project can be taken on. She also mentioned that the refinancing did not add any debt nor did the City take any money out, it was strictly to lower the interest rate.

Donnie Moore from Parks and Leisure Department gave a brief overview of the Youth Center. He was proud to mention that the Center has had over 200k in attendance since 1997. Donnie Moore also pointed out that some of the kids who attended the Center in the beginning are now some of the employees that work there, which is a huge accomplishment. Doug Heusdens asked about the floor in the gym and if it had been replaced and Donnie Moore replied that it had. He also asked about the hours of the Youth Center and Donnie gave him that information. Doug Heusdens wanted to know again why the Center couldn't be open on a Saturday. Donnie Moore answered him that they had tried being open this day and the attendance did not balance out the cost of opening the Center on that day. He also explained that the budget for the Center does not include them to be open 6 or 7 days a week and that even at 5 days a week exceeds the funding allocated for the Center, also explained that after June the remainder of the budget costs comes from Parks and Leisure's general fund budget. Linda Mendez mentioned that she feels the Center is doing all it can to provide for the children of the city. Jenni Byers briefly explained that the minimum wage amount is going up every year and the amount the City receives in funding is going down each year so the funding for the Center gets tighter each year. She also reminded the Committee that there is a specific percentage of 15% allowed to be used towards Public Service in this funding and they are applying the most funding they can to the Center from this funding and that the rest has to come from the general fund. There is mention of possibly a volunteer staff opening the Center on Saturdays, possibly from a High School program. Pat Contreras commented that she would like to be careful what the Committee commits to so it doesn't interfere with the commitments already maintained by the Committee.

Staff gave a brief overview of Shelter + Care and explained what the program does for the City's homeless. There is discussion on this topic regarding specific programs offered and details on the social worker's job duties. Staff discussed the First Time Home Buyer program that is no longer funded through this grant but is funded through another program and is still on-going in promotion and in usage. However, the Home Rehabilitation program is still funded through this program and has funds and is being promoted as well. Doug Heusdens had a question about whether or not HUD had sent a letter regarding any of the sections of this funding. Staff explained that the funding for the downtown parking lots was attributed to the wrong category and a correction needs to be made, but a letter was not received specifically about this. Doug Heusdens would like that any letters received be included in the packets from now on, if any are received. Staff discussed Land Acquisition, Clearance and Disposition by sharing that the City has acquired a property on South G Street with the intent to demo the structure and donate it to a non-profit organization to rebuild. Doug Heusdens questioned the Henry house and parks and wanted to know if there was money allocated to them. Staff explained that the Parks Department has a Parks and Leisure Service Commission and they identify what their needs are and if CDBG funds are able to help, the request is made. She also explained that some of the parks in Porterville do not qualify for CDBG funding, such as Veteran's Park. It is also explained that the

Henry House project is still happening but that none of the funding is coming from this funding and hasn't for a couple of years. Staff briefly discussed the Business Assistance programs and it is discussed. Doug Heusdens asked again about the Façade project and Jason Ridenour explained to him that to use this funding, it would trigger prevailing wage clause which then made the business owners opt out of the project. It was explained that the funding for this project was part of the overall budget of the Business Assistance program, not specifically for this program so its available for any type of business assistance loan. Doug Heusdens stressed his irritation with blighted buildings in downtown Porterville, as he lives on Main Street and sees these buildings daily, and would like blight addressed. Staff explained that until very recently, more than 50% of downtown buildings are owned by out of the area owners and it always has been, and is still ongoing, a regular project to get downtown revitalized and blight reduced. Jenni Byers then explained the Receivership Program where the City will take ownership of blighted properties and maintain them or the owner repays the City's bills that were incurred in the cleanup on the blighted properties but the City had to start with residential properties. Now that the City has been successful with some residential blighted properties, they are discussing taking on commercial properties. She stressed that it's a time-consuming process. Doug Heusdens gave some examples of blighted buildings downtown and staff explained that some of those are just taking time to be rebuilt inside. Doug Heusdens asked about code enforcement and compared Porterville to Visalia, and staff explained that Visalia has six code enforcement officers and Porterville has one code enforcement officer. Staff also mentioned that City has created a Code Enforcement Survey to be presented to City Council for releasing to the community to fill out and return which should help determine what the core items that should be addressed.

Staff asked if there was any other input from Committee on the budget. There was none.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

MOVED by Doug Heusdens and SECONDED by Grace Munoz-Rios to approve the 2017/2018 Action Plan and the program models specified therein and approve submitting to City Council.

AYES: 5  
NOES: 0  
ABSENT: 2

Jenni Byers noted that Maria Gonzalez had left during the meeting.

### **Item No. 5 – ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

There are none.

### **Item No. 6 – ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.