

M I N U T E S

GARDEN GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (NICC)

SPECIAL MEETING

COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER
11300 STANFORD AVENUE
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY
MAY 7, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: A special meeting of the NICC was called to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Community Meeting Center.

PRESENT: CHAIR HANNA, VICE-CHAIR FREER,
COMMISSIONERS MILLER, POPE, RUBIN
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS FOSTER, KILL

ALSO PRESENT: Allison Mills, Neighborhood Improvement Manager; Tom Ferch, Senior Program Specialist; Monica Covarrubias, Senior Program Specialist; Robert Sedita, Intern; Ameenah Abu-Hamdiyyah, Recording Secretary; Sherri Oslund, Support

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Rubin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Rubin moved to approve the Minutes from the September 12, 2011 meeting, seconded by Chair Hanna, and was carried with the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONER: HANNA, MILLER, RUBIN
NOES: COMMISSIONER: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER: FOSTER, KILL
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER: POPE, FREER

MATTERS FROM STAFF

Item 3.a: Staff presented the Annual Housing Element Progress Report as required by the State to show the status of the General Plan Housing Element and to indicate the progress in the implementation and status of Housing Element's programs and objectives as well as to provide an opportunity for public discussion and input.

The implementation status of the programs and objectives set forth in the 2008-2014 Housing Element Plan are outlined in the Annual Element Progress Report. The implementation status of the programs and their objectives are for the reporting period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

Staff noted that as of December 31, 2011, the City has met, exceeded, or is on track to meet all of its annual and long term goals as set forth in the Housing Element.

Chair Hanna opened the floor for questions. There were none.

Item 3.b: Staff presented a Public Hearing on Substantial Amendment No. 1 to the 2011/12 Action Plan. Staff stated that the City of Garden Grove receives annual entitlement grants from three U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding sources, including an annual Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

Recently, the City of Garden Grove received an allocation of \$64,038 in Stage 2 Emergency Solutions Grant funds. HUD rules require that a Substantial Amendment to the existing program year's Action Plan be drafted for all new HUD funding. The Amendment would appropriate the Stage 2 Emergency Solutions Grant funds to the City's Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing efforts. The allocation would be carried over and budgeted in FY 2012-2013 budget. No new activities are proposed for the program year.

Amendment No. 1 is currently in the Public Review period from April 6, 2012 until the conclusion of the City Council meeting on May 8, 2012.

The Commission was asked to conduct a public hearing and to review the staff recommendation and to recommend transmittal to City Council.

Commissioner Rubin asked what determines grant allocation. Staff stated that HUD determines the grant amount received by the City. Staff makes sub-recipient funding recommendations based on the City's high priority needs listed in the Consolidated Plan. The City does not receive enough money to fund medium or low-priority needs.

Commissioner Rubin asked if the grants are for low-income areas. Staff clarified that the Emergency Solution Grant is for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing. Service providers apply to the City for these funds. Staff added that the funds are specific to people who are homeless or about to become homeless.

Vice-Chair Freer inquired about Rapid Re-housing. Staff clarified that Homeless Prevention is for those who are in jeopardy of becoming homeless or are in a financial crisis and in need of Rapid Re-housing.

Chair Hanna opened the public hearing to receive testimony. There was none. With no further questions or comments the public hearing was closed and Vice-Chair Freer moved to recommend the transmittal of the Substantial Amendment

No. 1 to 2011/2012 Action Plan to City Council, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, and was carried with the following vote:

AYES:	COMMISSIONER:	HANNA, MILLER, FREER, POPE, RUBIN
NOES:	COMMISSIONER:	NONE
ABSENT:	COMMISSIONER:	KILL, FOSTER
ABSTAIN:	COMMISSIONER:	NONE

Item 3.c: Staff presented the 2012-13 Action Plan Draft for the Use of HUD Funds. Federal law requires all jurisdictions receiving Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds (HUD funds) to prepare an Action Plan. The Action Plan identifies how these three types of HUD funds be allocated to the eleven priority objectives identified in the Five Year Consolidated Plan.

During 2012-13, approximately \$5 million in HUD funds will be available. This includes \$2.4 million in carry over funds from previous years and \$2.6 million in new funds. The funds will address affordable housing improvement and rehabilitation, public services, neighborhood improvement, and economic development.

This Draft is currently in the Public Review period from April 6, 2012 until the conclusion of the City Council meeting on May 8, 2012.

Staff clarified points pertaining to the Commissioners' and City's input on HUD preliminary budgets, allocation of funds, definition of median incomes, and how income qualification works.

Commissioner Miller inquired about the allocation of \$327,000 for restrooms at the Lewis Senior Center and why such funds were not used for urgent needs such as homeless assistance. Staff explained that funds have to be used according to their source and allocation.

Chair Hanna opened the public hearing to receive testimony.

Sharon Wie, Director of Programs at Interval House thanked the Commission and Staff for their support and assistance in making Interval House a haven for victims of domestic violence as well as a resource center for those seeking counseling and legal advice. Chair Hanna thanked Sharon for her efforts.

Barbara Shull, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Foundation introduced herself and greeted the Commission and Staff.

With no further questions or comments the public hearing was closed and Vice-Chair Freer moved to recommend the transmittal of the 2012-13 Action Plan Draft for the Use of HUD Funds to City Council, seconded by Commissioner Miller, and was carried with the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONER: HANNA, MILLER, FREER, POPE, RUBIN
NOES: COMMISSIONER: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER: KILL, FOSTER
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER: NONE

Item 3d: Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the Code of Ethics.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

In reference to the tables in the Housing Element Report, Vice-Chair Freer requested clarification on income qualification, and also asked if the construction mentioned in the table was new. Staff clarified the various categories of income qualification as required by HUD, and affirmed that the construction mentioned was new.

Staff also noted that the Housing Element Progress Report shows all housing activity in the City, which includes City-assisted purchases as well as those purchased by private developers. Staff added that the Housing Element Report shows the impact on the entire City.

Chair Hanna inquired about the funds that were used to go towards a firehouse on Harbor Boulevard since there still is not a firehouse there. Staff stated that the firehouse funds were used to acquire two of the four properties needed for completion of the project as was intended; however, due to current economic constraints the remaining two properties have not been acquired. The City intends to move forward with the project as funding becomes available.

Chair Hanna suggested having an educational and informative meeting for the Commissioners to acquaint them with the Five Year Consolidated Plan as well as other matters. This would be helpful for Commissioners that join mid-year or after the Five Year Consolidated Plan starts. Staff suggested that a study session with an educational overview of what the Commission does could be held in the June 4, 2012 meeting. Staff may be contacted by email with any specific questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Ameenah Abu-Hamdiyyah
Recording Secretary