

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: April 8, 2019
Place of Meeting: Marion City Hall

Chairman Jason Schaber called the Meeting of the Committee for Jobs & Economic Development to Order at 6:45 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Present -- Jason Schaber, Kevin Norris, Ayers Ratliff

MINUTES:

Mr. Norris made a motion to approve previous minutes, Mr. Ratliff 2nd. Roll call: Ayes: Mr. Schaber, Mr. Norris, Mr. Ratliff

Minutes of March 11, 2019 Approved (3-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

Item 1. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION – CDBG PROJECT PROPOSALS

Evelyn Warr-Cummings (Regional Planning) explained that final award is not known. It will be at least \$150,000 over 2 years, and \$30,000 of that will go towards administrative costs. She will know exact numbers after she attends grant training.

51%+ needs to be spent on low- and moderate-income projects (\$61,000+). This leaves 49%- (\$59,000) on slum and blight projects. No more than three projects. One park is one project but could include several activities. Other activities near the park might also be applicable.

In response to Mr. Ratliff, Miss Warr-Cummings explained that possible a demolition near a park might be an option.

Bev Ford, Marion Palace Theater, indicated that they would like to submit for block grant monies. They have a parking lot created due to the demolition of buildings under previous CDBG. They would like to upgrade these from a stone lot, that would include grading, excavating, creating drainage, and pavement. It would create 15 additional spaces. They would share that lot with other businesses in the area.

Miss Evelyn Warr-Cummings said that downtown projects usually must go under slum/blight rather than LMI (even if they are that type of neighborhood).

Some other suggested projects include:

- Demolition projects from Tom Robbins -- \$65,000 to manage some demolition projects, specifically a building on N. Main Street where the owner does not have the resources to make it safe or demolish it.

- Back Flow Devices -- \$1,000-1,500/household to income qualified residents; Falls under home repair for sewer and it would count as public infrastructure for low and moderate income.
- Martin Luther King Park – parking lot could be paved where they had taken down the sale shed, add better electrical outlets (more amenities in the shelter), benches, tables.
- McKinley Park – Project Playground – main playground needs replaced; It is now 27 years old; \$120,000
- Sidewalks – Patton Street leading to Patterson Park in the residential area to the east; Leader Street leading up to Job and Family Services; \$15,000 and \$44,000 are broad estimates.
- Downtown Façade Program – They could create a mini-program without going into statewide competition; It would be eligible under slum/blight; could be a matching grant fund; Or they could apply for \$250,000 under the competitive grant where an individual property owner (or up to three); They would come in as an open cycle.
- Glenwood Park – install basketball courts; broad estimate is \$45,000
- Sawyer Ludwig Park – bringing restrooms closer to the softball field; Archeologist has already looked at location and they may not need to do any further testing depending on where they are placed.
- City Recreation Center – create concrete retaining wall like in LoDo to help with ease of maintenance at Rec Center property; probably be slum and blight but not sure.
- Garfield Park – replace ballfield lights with LED, \$40,000.
- Lincoln Park – variety of needs; additional pieces on skateboard park

OTHER BUSINESS:

With no further business to come before this Committee, Mr. Schaber adjourned the meeting at 7:16 PM.

Chairman Schaber

Clerk of Council

