

**City of Valdosta CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee**

**Monthly Meeting – Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2015**

**5:30 p.m.**

City of Valdosta – City Hall Annex, Multi-Purpose Room

**Members Present:**

Rebecca Taylor, Jessica Young, Karla Walker

**City Staff Present:** Vanassa Flucas and Sarah Lowe

Meeting called to order by Ms. Vanassa Flucas at 5:35 p.m.

Ms. Flucas gave a brief introduction and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Introductions were made from each person in attendance. Ms. Flucas then re-informed what the Neighborhood Development Division for the City of Valdosta does, and how the CDBG program applies to individuals. This included eligibility requirements, areas of focus, reconstruction and rehab project details.

CDBG CAC Binders had already been distributed to each member in attendance.

Ms. Flucas reviewed the contents of the binder:

1. Current CDBG Citizen Advisory (CDBG CAC) Mission Statement
2. 2020 Vision Goal: Now we are within five (5) years of 2020, the initial goals of the committee have grown/changed. This committee can decide if changes/additions need to be made towards achieving the goals.
3. Attendance Policy: This policy had already been approved by this committee prior to this meeting. The main point is if you are unable to make a meeting, just communicate with our office as a courtesy.
4. Meeting Schedule for 2016. The schedule for 2016 has been set for:  
January 25  
April 25  
July 25  
October 24  
Meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex. If anything should change with the time and/or location, advance notice will be sent out. In the future, the agenda along with any background information pertaining to the upcoming meeting will be sent to each Committee member prior to meeting day.
5. Approved 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan (Con Plan)

## HUD Funding Requires (3) Three Reports

Con Plan

Annual Action Plan

Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Ms. Flucas further explains, the Con Plan is our Strategic Plan for the next (5) Five Years. (How we plan to use the funding over the next 5 years.) As an Entitlement Community, we do not have to apply each year for funding, but is automatically allocated yearly. This was not always the case. Prior to being classified as an Entitlement Community, we would have to go through the State and this is yearly funding competitive process. We still must work hard to obtain our current funding, as we are in contention with other GA Entitlement Communities such as, Atlanta and Savannah. With the monies we are given, we have to prove through these reports that we utilize the funding properly and the money is still needed in our community.

Ms. Flucas shared one major concern, we have a lack of public participation in the program. We need the citizens of our community to say there is a need for the funding in order for us to continue to receive it.

Our primary focus has been on improving community housing however, but our population dictates we must also focus more on economic development, fair housing education, and opportunities to learn how to sustain the housing. To basically develop a more, well-rounded attack to the community in terms of revitalization. Housing will remain a large part but not the only focus.

The Con Plan is due once every (5) Five Years in May.

### 6. 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan / Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Allocations

The Con Plan was due the same time as the Annual Action Plan. When this happens, the reports are combined. This report is based on the expected money for the next fiscal year. It itemizes what are plans are for the immediate year. For FY 2015 we added more allotment/funding to Economic Development. All allocations for FY 2015 were reviewed in detail. Ms. Flucas referred to page 132 for breakdown of objectives and explained to the committee some of the impediments faced with projects and utilizing funds received in past programs. The Annual Action Plan is due every year in May.

### 7. 2014 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

(How we spent the funding.) This report is filed the September following the Fiscal Year the expenses took place. The 2014 report was the last report in written form. All reports following will be in electronic format and will be accessible online. The CAPER was reviewed but Ms. Flucas brought attention to page 2 which displayed a wrap up of all we were able to do for the 2014 FY.

Ms. Flucas shared what she would like to see from the committee. Feedback is needed to come up with ideas on how to get our citizens more involved. We need to know where the assistance is needed within our community. We need the committee to think about ways we may be able to develop revenue building programs. We may not always receive funding so we need to have ideas on how to generate funding. Where do you want the committee to focus and/or assist with, we

want your feedback. HUD website offers many resources. These resources can help promote ideas that can pertain to our community.

Reminder, email will be sent out towards end of December (early January) with reminder of meeting dates/times. Also if you need to add anything for next meeting's agenda, and/or need something researched for next meeting, contact us. Our office is open to you for any questions or suggestions.

There were no further items to discuss at this time, Ms. Flucas adjourned meeting at 6:55p.m.