

**City of Valdosta CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee**

**Monthly Meeting & Retreat – Minutes**

**Monday, October 23, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.**

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

**Members Present:** Councilwoman Vivian Miller-Cody, Franchesca Griffin, Karla Walker, and Bill Donaldson

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

**Guest Present:** Dolores Perry

The Meeting was called to order by Ms. Vanassa Flucas at 3:24 p.m., followed by an invocation given by Councilwoman Miller-Cody.

The Meeting Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed. Ms. Flucas called for a motion. Councilwoman Miller-Cody motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Griffin seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting Minutes from July were ratified.

The Attendance Police was reviewed and discussed for the newer members. Ms. Flucas encouraged the committee to set aside the time to attend the quarterly meetings. In the event we do not have a quorum the priority will be to work to move the meeting to a date within a week to allow the committee to work on any existing projects. However since we only meet once a quarter, by missing a meeting time, it will delay the momentum of what our primary purpose and goals are for our community. Ms. Flucas informed the committee, Neighborhood Development Division will do a better job of announcing upcoming meetings and any changes.

The CDBG Funding issues and concerns with regards to current events with the government were addressed. Ms. Flucas explained with the recent natural disasters taking place, while these are horrible events for the individuals directly impacted, the events have proven to show the importance of the CDBG programs. Ms. Flucas is looking to find approval to attend the upcoming National Community Development Association (NCDA) Legislative Session scheduled for January in Washington, D.C. If possible it would be beneficial to have at least one committee member attend. All major funding cuts and decisions are made at the national level. To have a representative attend would be essential in helping voice our concerns to allow for a better impact on our community. Ms. Flucas encouraged the committee members to stay aware and informed of any governmental and federal current events so they can in turn share and inform others in their inner circles and the community at large. Our community needs to be aware and understand the importance of the CDBG programs along with ways they can help. There are times a letter to our legislative representatives is needed as well as other ways through social media outlets. In the event such a time should come, we will have letter templates available.

Ms. Flucas shared the initiatives from the Neighborhood Development through updating the website to show our community the benefits. Ms. Walker suggested reaching out to local stations. One station has a “Make a Difference Monday” segment which could be an additional outlet. Ms. Griffin also suggested the use of Valdosta Today. In addition to the public notices given, be sure to include more visual aids such as flyers to help.

Upcoming Initiatives were discussed.

The Residential Registry and Inspection Program (RRIP)

Ms. Flucas provided a thorough overview of the RRIP program. The CDBG CAC has addressed the concerns of the homeowners. This new program would address the neighborhood on the rental side. In addition to discussing the program, the pros and cons of implementing this program were also discussed, as well as funding source options for running the program. There would be some contention from some of the renters but overall this will allow for better housing practices for the community.

## BREAK

The Committee was reminded of the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) and ways they can assist and participation.

The Committee was also reminded and informed of the next upcoming Think Tank. The confirmed date for the next Think Tank meeting will fall on the same date of the next CDBG CAC meeting on Monday, January 29, 2018.

Part II of the meeting was to discuss the Vision Goals for the CDBG CAC

The Vision Goals for 2030

1. Homeownership rates in all neighborhoods at or above 60%
2. Residents feel comfortable knowing and interacting with their neighbors.
3. There is an enhanced sense of accountability and ownership.
4. There is an enhanced level of pride and commitment at the personal and neighborhood level.
5. Proactive efforts at the neighborhood level to explore and implement opportunities for improvement.
6. Positive and effective relationships and interactions among citizens and their government.
7. Creating an innovative and interactive environment that encourages opportunities designed to increase economic development and sustainable incomes. *Implement 5 year program to wean off section 8.*

There were no additional agenda items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.