

Commission on Community Relations and Development
April 11, 2023
6:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Washea Lancaster called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

II. Invocation

Member David Elliott

III. Roll Call (Members Present)

Terri Bradley	Washea Lancaster	Marcus Lewis
Chretien Dumond	Roderick White	David Elliott
Denise Todd	Amber Tyler	

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Member Stephen McFarland offered the motion to adopt the agenda. Member Roderick White seconded. All were in favor and the agenda was adopted.

V. Approval of meeting minutes (January 10, 2023)

Member Stephen McFarland offered the motion to accept the January meeting minutes. Member Denise Todd seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

VI. New Business

A. FY23-24 Annual Action Plan Public Meeting

Liaison opened the public meeting with a presentation sharing background on HUD funded CDBG & HOME grants, eligible activities, the 5-year Consolidated Plan “ConPlan”, the Annual Action Plan, current ConPlan goals, FY23-24 allocation amounts, and the Annual Action Plan timeline.

Two speakers spoke during the public meeting.

Speaker 1 (Phyllis Merrit-James):

- CAPER online, is there an updated version?
- Unhoused and underemployed lack of resources
- How can we reach target goals towards LMI housing?

Speaker 2 (Matthew Whittle):

- Looking forward to CHDO funds
- Seeking CDBG funding to support extensive needed infrastructure for new housing development project (H.E. McNair)
- Affordable Housing Strategic Plan is still needed; City can use HOME funds for a consultant to develop the plan.

VII. Action and Discussion Items

A. Fair Housing Follow-up/Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Washea Lancaster provided a follow up on the upcoming Fair Housing panel discussion. Discussion followed on outreach. Members discussed expanding outreach for the event and suggested distributing flyers at beauty shops and barbershops, to name a few.

B. Comprehensive Plan/Chair

Chair Terri Bradley discussed developing a framework and cohorts to outline for the comprehensive plan.

C. Wayne County Re-entry Council/Presented by Mrs. Renita Allen-Dawson, WCC

Mrs. Dawson provided information on the newly re-emerged Re-entry Council that operates out of Wayne Community College. She shared that the program is geared towards assisting residents who are recently released from prison or still have active criminal records with needed resources. The program links participants with employment, housing, education, and social skills. Mrs. Dawson shared that anyone could submit an intake or refer someone to the program. She left program brochures for the group.

VIII. Information Items/CCRD Members

Member Roderick White shared that the southern part of the city needs amenities and that grant funding should be sought for that purpose.

Member David Elliott echoed that grants should be sought after for needed resources.

Member Amber Tyler suggested the CCRD tap into community resources.

Member Stephen McFarland expressed how great the Re-entry program is.

Vice-Chair Washea Lancaster suggested a register to vote event and discussed how difficult it is for LMI to get ahead, sharing how many lose government assistance when they advance in employment.

Chair Terri Bradley encouraged to get the community involved because their voices matter.

Member Denise Todd expressed concerns over the homelessness issue that she encounters near her job.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Terri Bradley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Stephen McFarland offered the motion to adjourn. Member Amber Tyler seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

***Minutes taken and prepared by Liaison Felecia Williams, MS/QP**