

**CITY OF LEWISTON
PLANNING BOARD MEETING
MINUTES for March 26, 2002 - Page 1 of 3**

- I. ROLL CALL:** This meeting was held in the City Council Chambers of Lewiston City Hall, was called to order at 7:06 p.m., and was chaired by Dennis Mason.
- **Members in Attendance:** Dennis Mason, Robert Connors, Jeffrey Gosselin, Kristine Kimball, and Roger Lachapelle.
 - **Staff Present:** James Andrews, Community Development Director; Yvette Bedard, Housing/CD Officer-Community Development; and Doreen Christ, Admin. Secretary-Planning Division
 - **Absent:** Rob Robbins and John Cole.
 - **Student Members Absent:** Ethan Chittim and Jen Robustelli.
 - **Others Present:** Recognition was given to City Councilor Renee Bernier (Ward 2).

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None.

III. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING: *Public Hearing concerning the FY2003 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and make a recommendation to the City Council accordingly.* James Andrews stated that the City of Lewiston is an entitlement City and receives an allocation each year from the federal government for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Each year, for the past 30 years, there has been an increase in allocation. This year, it is about \$15,000 more than last year. A committee comprised of the following people developed the proposed CDBG budget for the Planning Board's consideration: Planning Board Members - Kristine Kimball and Jeffrey Gosselin, City Council Members - City Council President Renee Bernier and Norm Rousseau, and Sub-Recipients Marty McIntyre, Executive Director of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center and Roy G. Gedat, Executive Director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. This program has already gone through a three-meeting process. This item was then turned back to the Planning Board. Since the Planning Board had no comments at this time, this item was opened to the public for the following comments.

Susan Smith (Executive Director - YWCA) This program provides comprehensive case management and parent education for adolescent mothers and fathers with children prenatal to five. Clients that utilize this project are at-risk youths that are victims of abuse, violent homes, are vulnerable to substance abuse or living away from home.

Requested: \$4,000

Granted \$3,656

Calvin Dube (Program Coordinator - Trinity Episcopal Church, now known as the Trinity Jubilee Center) The Trinity Jubilee Center is located on Bates and Spruce Streets. They serve 700 meals per week. In 2001, 1,500-1,800 food bags were handed out. They provide emergency referrals and transportation for medical, psychiatric and substance abuse counseling. They also serve homeless people. They have seen a significant increase in young/homeless couples from out-of-state. They have a close connection with Common Ties and work with the ACT Program and Substance Abuse at Tri-County Mental Health. They also work closely with the jail systems in providing homeless, mental, and psychiatric help. They now provide a fourth meal on Saturdays. They work with the Somali refugees in providing them with clothing and baby goods. In closing, Calvin Dube said that they are the No. 1 drop-in center in Lewiston.

Requested: \$25,000

Granted \$8,226

Estelle Rubenstein (Androscoggin Head Start/Childhood Enrichment). This childcare program provides quality early childhood education services and full-time, year-round subsidized childcare to economically disadvantaged families. Estelle Rubenstein then introduced both *Donna MacNavoie* and *Celine May*. Donna MacNavoie stated that she was in a bad marriage and has since gone back to school.

She feels confident going to school knowing that her daughter is being well provided for at Androscoggin Head Start. Celine May is a single parent of a five-year old boy. With the help of Androscoggin Head Start, she attends school full-time and works a full-time job.

Requested: \$61,384

Granted: \$61,238

Laurie Winsor (Community Relations Director - Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice) The funds provided from the CDBG Program allows AHCH to provide low-income and mentally ill/mentally retarded Lewiston residents with home health care and homemaking services to maintain their health, independence, and safety at home. AHCH is the only non-profit home health agency offering these services to low-income Lewiston residents. Their subsidized fee program is 100 percent dependent on funding from municipal and donor support raised on an annual basis.

Requested: \$13,255

Granted: \$13,255

Joel Packer (Executive Director - Pathways, Inc. - Work Place Program) said that this program is specifically designed to enable people with disabilities find gainful employment. Joel Packer said that this year was a very good year. Over 50 people this year have received good jobs.

Requested: \$17,000

Granted: \$10,054

Joel Packer (Executive Director - Pathways, Inc. - Extended Employment Program) said that this program provides jobs for people with disabilities.

Requested: \$17,000

Granted: \$4,570

Joline Banaitis (MPC Coordinator - Multi-Purpose Center) This program provides professional and adequate supervision for children ages 5-12 years old. This service is offered to very low to low-moderate families located in the Enterprise Community. This program focuses on quality recreational and educational aspects of childhood development as well as providing a safe and healthy environment.

After School Program

Requested: \$15,000

Granted: \$13,710

Summer Program

Requested: \$1,500

Granted: \$0

Mary Gagnon, LMFT-C (Executive/Clinical Director - Norwich House) This program is for pregnant and parenting adolescents and their children. The Norwich House provides a safe, nurturing, and stable environment so that the residents can develop the necessary life skills needed to live independently with their child. Mary Gagnon said that they provide housing and food for their residents. They build a healthy relationship for teens and their children and try to stop them and to get them away from abuse from partners or friends with whom they have chosen to live or associate.

Requested: \$15,500

Granted: \$10,968

Phoebe Lowell (Program Director of SEARCH - Seek Elderly Alone, Renew Courage & Hope) The SEARCH Program is provided through the Catholic Charities of Maine agency and it assists elderly people to remain in their homes as long as possible. There are lots of programs that work together. SEARCH donates clothing to head start. SEARCH services are provided free of charge.

Requested: \$6,000

Granted: \$4,570

Amy Guimond (Emergency Services Director -United Valley Chapter, American Red Cross) This program provides direct assistance to residents of Lewiston who are low and low-moderate income people whom have disaster caused needs. Last year Lewiston had 11 fires affecting 24 families, totaling 60 people, that cost the American Red Cross approximately \$19,500. So far this year through to the end of February 2002, there have been 9 incidents, affecting 26 families, totaling 57 people altogether, which cost \$9,000. If the fires are larger than they can handle, the American Red Cross can ask the national organization for help.

Requested: \$4,000

Granted: \$3,656

There, being no further public comment, the public portion was closed and opened back up to the Planning Board for comments and questions.

Jeffrey Gosselin stated that he would have to abstain from any discussion pertaining to the public service agencies and from voting on this item, since he has a variety of conflicts. He has memberships on various boards.

Robert Connors questioned funding from the Neighborhood Improvements listing to the Economic Development listing. Dennis Mason responded and said that last year there were several items contained in the Neighborhood Improvement section, including the community center. The committee allocation of \$381,709 accounted for a majority of the allocation.

James Andrews said that also included under Economic Development is the Lewiston/Auburn Transit Committee - Fixed Route Bus Replacement. This qualifies for the CDBG program, because the riders are low-income and elderly. James Andrews then referenced the \$200,000 in the Downtown Improvement Program. More money needs to be allocated to the downtown, as this program needs to be recapitalized. The Bates Mill has been reduced by \$50,000 this year. LAEGC has not been funded in the past, however, this year they are being funded for \$75,000 of their \$265,000 request.

Dennis Mason asked which financing covers the Park Street Warehouse on the end of Park Street across from The Public Theaters. James Andrews responded that no CDBG funds or federal funds, funded that redevelopment.

The following motion was then made.

MOTION: by **Robert Connors**, seconded by **Roger Lachapelle** to send a favorable recommendation to the City Council to accept the Fiscal Year 2003 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

VOTED: 4-0-1 (Gosselin).

May 7, 2002 is the target date for a Public Hearing to be heard by the City Council.

V. READING OF THE MINUTES: Reading of the minutes from the March 12, 2002 Planning Board Meeting.

The following changes were made: 1. On Page No. 2, Item No. 4, Sub-Item D. 2., third to the last line replace the wording, "no public audience, this item was immediately closed" with the wording, "no public comment, this item was closed"; and 2. On Page No. 4, under Mark Paradis' comments, third sentence, change the word, "setback" to read "setbacks" and the word, "is" to "are". The following motion was made.

MOTION: by **Robert Connors**, seconded by **Dennis Mason** to approve the Planning Board Minutes for March 12, 2002, as amended.

VOTED: 3-0-2 (Lachapelle/Kimball).

VI. ADJOURNMENT: This meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Kimball
Planning Board Member & Secretary

