

NEIGHBORHOOD BUILDING BLOCK INITIATIVE

September 7, 2017

Board members present

Cerron Cade, Director, DOS, Chair NBBF
Connie Holland, Director, OSPC
Anas Ben Addi, Director, DSHA
Sean Lugg, DOJ (New appointee by DOJ)
Gregory Patterson, DOJ
LaKresha Roberts, DOJ
Honorable Jim Sills

Staff present

Oliver Cleary, DOJ
Marlena Gibson, DSHA
Dorothy Morris, OSPC
Diane Laird, DOS
Mrs. Sheryl Hill-Dyer, DOS

Members of the public present

Mary Fox, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Delaware
Cindy White
Sarah Lester, Cornerstone West

Location Division of Small Business, Development and tourism (formerly Delaware Economic Development Office), Carvel State Office, 820 North French Street, 10th Floor, Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m., Thursday, September 7, 2017, by Director, Cerron Cade. A quorum was present.

Old Business

Review of June 29, 2017, Meeting Minutes

An amendment made to application #3 (COD-12-16-Townsend) City of Dover). The amount granted \$94,634 instead of \$94,640. Amount noted from Greg and Lakresha.

Greg made the motion to approve minutes with amendment made to application number 3, COD-12-15 Townsend) City of Dover. LaKresha seconded the motion.

Upon motion duly made by Greg seconded by LaKresha, the Board unanimously agree to accept the June 29, 2017 meeting minutes.

New Business

Introduction of new board member

Greg introduced new board member, Sean Lugg, appointed to replace Matt Lintner, DOJ who recently resigned from the Board. Sean is the State's Prosecutor since December 2016. Prior to current position he served appeals unit and the traffic safety unit for 20 years. Sean has a criminal justice street level perspective and in charge of the criminal division.

Additionally, Cerron recognized Oliver Cleary, DOJ, covering for Larry Lewis, who is on vacation.

Review status of applications previously approved

Cornerstone West CDC funding reallocation request (CWCDC-12-16-Lester)

An email was sent to planning division asking the board to review their application again for a change. Sarah Lester, Director of Cornerstone West CDC requested to allow up to \$20,000 for individual façade improvements versus the previously-approved amount of \$5,000 per awardee.

Board discussed that for businesses participating, matching funds will be a requirement with flexibility on amounts awarded to business small and large projects. Cornerstone West's business alliance is discussing what the program has done along Market Street and downtown. There are five to ten businesses interested in facade improvements currently and a waiting list for the security cameras after the initial/first round of improvements. Cornerstone will have an application process with a point system. It was recommended that the application have deadlines to add urgency for awardees to complete projects.

Anas made the motion to approve the new amended proposal for Cornerstone West CDC as recommended for approval to increase maximum match amount from \$5,000 to \$20,000 with a requirement from the business and a deadline completion of applications. Connie seconded the motion.

Upon motion duly made by Anas seconded by Connie, the Board unanimously agree to approve Cornerstone West CDC amended application.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware supplemental information (BBBSD-12-16-Fox)

At the last board meeting there was discussion about the expansion of mentoring services to Wilmington's priority schools - Bancroft Elementary and Stubbs Elementary. The funds would help at risk students academically, personally and socially and to help fund mentor coordinators at each schools. The application was denied as presented because funding mentor coordinator salaries is not typically supported by NBBF.

Mary Fox, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware provided supplemental information with an previous example (within Bancroft and Stubbs Elementary schools) that indicated that salary of a mentor coordinator is vital for success of mentoring programs. According to the principals of each school, professional staffing by mentor coordinators monitor the program and supervise the mentors. The projection with additional funding would increase from 140 children to 200 children being served in the mentoring program. Student grade improvements, attitudes toward schools, improved behaviors, lower unexcused attendance, absenteeism and positive interaction with teachers' measures are outcomes of these types of programs.

Board discussed that sustainability of the proposed program is a concern. The mission of the board is to help people help children, help with adults and reduce crime. Funding ongoing salaries is not the intent of the program. Discussion revealed that there are two potential options for Big Brothers Big

Sisters: Big Brothers Big Sisters may reapply during next round of funding or Big Brothers Big Sisters may resubmit a new application for a different proposal request, one that more closely aligns with the purpose and parameters of NBBF funding.

Sean made a motion to deny Big Brothers Big Sisters' application pursuant to the regulations that have been discussed and for all reasons discussed here. Connie seconded the motion.

Upon motion duly made by Sean seconded by Connie, the Board unanimously agree to deny Big Brothers Big Sisters' application.

Update on the Strong Neighborhoods Housing Fund and Downtown Development District (DDD)

Marlena provided Downtown Development District (DDD) program background information. The DDD program (launched in 2015) has grown from three to eight districts which encourages programs and initiatives. Strong neighborhoods housing funds have aided vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties revitalizing communities. Districts are required to come up with a good plan and apply for designation with the Office of State Planning. Districts show ways to support ordinance and investments based on community needs. The rebate aspect of the DDD introduced opportunities for residential reinvestment and also encourages new investments in commercial properties. Wilmington, Dover, Seaford, Smyrna, Harrington, Georgetown, Laurel and Milford are the current eight districts. There have been over 40 projects in Wilmington with total development cost of over \$400 million dollars of demolishing and fixing neighborhoods.

The Strong Neighborhoods Housing Fund (SNHF) was established in 2014 and received two allocations in 2014 and 2016 from JP Morgan Chase. Much work has been done in the Creative District located in West Center City (Wilmington), as well as in the Route 9 Corridor and the City of Dover through the SNHF.

Update on NBBF expenditures to date

Diane provided an update on NBBF allocations/expenditures to date. Approximately \$1.3 million dollars remain in the fund (from the original total of \$4.7 million). Grantees from this round have grant agreements; most have submitted first draw requests; and several applicants have finished their projects. There are currently approximately 48 active applicants.

The board discussed the geographical breakdown of awards, as well as area of project focus and expenditures including planning related (\$503,329), parks/facades/beautification (\$893,433), youth programs (\$893,433), re-entry programs (\$295,269), lighting/security equipment (\$266,278), community policing (\$735,088), social services (\$223,476) and entrepreneurship (\$29,700). *Figures are approximate.*

In terms of dollar amounts: Twelve applications over \$50,000 were received, one of which was not approved. The largest award was made to the Boys and Girls Club of Delaware at \$250,000. Thirty six applications under \$50,000 were approved. 48 applications with requests under \$50 were received; 36 were approved. Applications approved under \$50,000 totaled 77 percent. A number of applicants were approved for less funding than the applicant's original request.

Review NBBF application and discuss timeline for future application round

Suggestions from the Board regarding proposed edits to the application:

- Consider looking at priorities with a smaller committee as done in the past.
- Consider what should be done differently?
- With the second round more people may be aware of the funds after the funds closed, thus there may be more applicants.
- Youth programs in underserved areas continues to be a DOJ priority.
- Prioritizing for youth programs and entrepreneurial was discussed.
- Consider increasing funding in Sussex County.
- Prioritize programs where nonprofits work together.
- Discuss placing cap on funding.
- Clarify salary concerns.
- Consider prioritizing applicants that have strong track record of positive performance.
- Do not fund program salaries unless perhaps projects are new initiatives or pilot programs.
- Leveraging and focusing on specific areas or zip code areas
- Review NBBF regulations.
- Consider perceptions that New Castle County receives most of the funds.
- Ensure regulations are followed as stated.
- Give priority to programs developing leaders or take on leadership training or self-help concepts through better leaderships (life skills).
- Matches should continue to be taken into consideration.
- Need to get the word out differently through DDD areas.
- Get word out to Sussex County. (Utilize SCAT website to get word out.)
- Leveraged funding (i.e.; project matches by applicant) should be taken into consideration and perhaps should be listed as a requirement.

Several will work in a small group to develop proposed edits to the application. Consider developing a booklet with success stories emulating in different areas within the state. Proposed application period: launch application in October, deadline for new applications late November/early December.

NBBF administration matters

DEDO requests 5 percent of the NBBF most recent allocation, or \$185,000, per the MOU for administration of the program which has increased significantly. DEDO proposes to use contract or casual/seasonal help for administration of the next application round. Estimates of cost for this staffing will be presented at the next board meeting. Funding used for casual seasonal will decrease amount of funding available for NBBF projects.

Public Comment

None.

Connie motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sean.

Upon motion duly made by Connie seconded by Sean, the Board unanimously agree to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 11:23 a.m.

Next meeting Monday, October 2, 2017, 2:00 p.m., Division of Small Business and Tourism, formerly Delaware Economic Development Office, (DEDO) 10th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted

Sheryl Hill-Dyer

Division of Small Business, Development and Tourism

CC: Board Member of Neighborhood Building Blocks Fund