

**CITIZENS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 4, 2015
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) held on NOVEMBER 4, 2015 in COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, located at 201 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jerry Jones called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT	STAFF PRESENT
Jerry Jones, Chair	Isabel Rollins, Grant Administrator
Michael Sarti, Vice-Chair	Tom Guice, Community Development Director
Mary Ann Suttles	George Worley, Planning Manager
Robert Painter	Darla Eastman, Administrative Specialist
Pam Wickstrom	Frank Hall, Community Planner
Tracey McConnell	COUNCIL PRESENT
Sandy Griffis	

III. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of the September 16, 2015 and October 14, 2015 meeting minutes.

Ms. McConnell, MOTION to approve the September 16, 2015 and October 14, 2015 meeting minutes. Mr. Sarti, 2nd. VOTE 6-0; passed.

1. Program Updates

Isabel Rollins provided a program update to the group stating that the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS) tour was well attended by the Committee and there will be a write-up in the Daily Courier. PASS received their Certificate of Occupancy this week and will be welcoming 6 families (up to 17 people) in the temporary housing very soon. The Coalition for Compassion and Justice is getting a slow start on their commercial range hood because it has turned out to be a larger and more complicated project than expected. They are looking for an engineer to draw up the plans. The CDBG Application Workshop is scheduled for December 10th and a notice will be forthcoming. Also, all the Committee Members' terms are expiring in March.

2. Presentation by Ron Romley on transportation needs and resources in Prescott

Ron Romley, Board Chairman of Yavapai Regional Transit and retired Arizona Department of Transportation employee, discussed Yavapai Regional Transit (YRT), which provides bus service to Prescott, Prescott Valley and Chino Valley. Mr. Romley stated that in 2008 he realized that there was a need for public transit and began taking the steps to help start up a

bus system. The nonprofit regional system phased in Prescott service more than a year ago, and since October 2013, it has been operating under a \$400,000 Arizona Department of Transportation grant. The biggest challenge for the system is maintaining its sponsorships, and generating donations to help with the grant match. Yavapai County, Yavapai-Prescott Tribe, and Yavapai Regional Medical Center have all been very supportive. YRT is always looking for new sponsors, as well as new members of the YRT board.

Mr. Romley emphasized their hard-won progress over the years and that their ridership has increased. Current records show that ridership on the buses has been averaging about 200 passengers per month. The system's buses are handicap accessible and the transit program is open to the general public as well. Romley said one of the challenges of finding suitable bus stops that fall within the requirements of a federal grant is whether the stop is north of Highway 69 - considered "rural" - or south, considered "urban." That is why the bus route stops at Hobby Lobby, even though some have requested it stop at Sprouts, across the highway.

The Committee discussed the possibility of YRT qualifying for a CDBG grant. The group agreed that they would consider ways YRT could apply for CDBG grants in the future.

3. Presentation by Gerry Garvey on Homelessness in Prescott

Committee Member Tracey McConnell introduced Gerry Garvey. She stated that Ms. Garvey is the founder of the Prescott Area Shelter Services and a grassroots organizer, system changer, and advocate for homeless people. Ms. Garvey thanked the CDBG Committee for their support over the years. She then began her PowerPoint presentation, and stated that she has worked in a number of poverty support programs and has opened six homeless shelters around the area. She said that homelessness is a sickness and a disease of poverty that can be cured. It is hard to capture the data on homelessness and that is why we need a housing authority in the area to focus on statistics that can help us understand the need and where we can provide support. In 2014, there were approximately 650 homeless in Yavapai County. That number doesn't include people in shelters. She stated that the majority of Americans today live paycheck to paycheck. They are just a divorce, a major illness, or a layoff away from being homeless. Approximately one in 30 children in Arizona are homeless, according to a 2014 report by American Institutes for Research. Based on figures available from local schools, state agencies and the U.S. Census Bureau. About 1,400 homeless children live in Yavapai County.

Ms. Garvey stated that lack of affordable housing is a big problem in the area, as well as lack of units for temporary shelters. The reason is that our older citizens are aging out of their big, beautiful homes and looking for smaller homes, and that makes the price of smaller homes go up. Prescott rentals are less and less affordable and have gone up 25% in the last few years.

Ms. Garvey also discussed the benefits of a housing authority. It's a one-stop shop for people who need assistance with housing. Right now, it's a full-time job finding housing for a family in a shelter. A housing authority can act as a HUD account manager, screen applicants for housing, coordinate with builders and contractors to diversify the community with low-income housing within multi-family and single-family areas, bring in federal funding to support affordable housing, and provide many other housing resources. The Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH), who serves as the county's Housing Authority, met with Lori Deutsch, President of PASS, and discussed the involvement of operating a housing authority. Yavapai County is the last county in Arizona to not have a housing authority. ADOH is offering \$500,000 in start-up funding, over three years, to support Yavapai County forming its own housing authority. The annual estimate to have a housing authority is \$250,000, so they would need to fund-raise for

the remainder. About two years ago, approximately 40 stakeholders met to discuss potentially starting a housing authority in Yavapai County. A Housing Authority Group was formed and an action plan created. A housing authority doesn't have to go through the County government. Ms. Garvey stated that most do because it generates a significant amount of funding for low-income housing. The bigger the area you cover, the more federal funding you'll receive. Ms. Garvey stated that Lori Deutsch is willing to take the next step in developing a housing authority in Prescott.

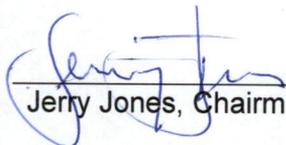
Ms. Garvey also discussed the Section 8 Program and described how it would support a homeless family based on their income. The family's portion of their rent payment increases as the family's income increases. Within two years, over 25% of the families in the Section 8 Program will pay their full rent payment with their income. The Section 8 Program is one of the most successful programs in the nation, and, unfortunately, one of the least utilized in Arizona. In Prescott, most of the Section 8 funding is given to the elderly and disabled. Therefore, the turnover in these populations is not like the two year turnover that is intended for this program.

Ms. Garvey shared the good news that US Veterans Affairs brought \$3 million into the area for homeless veterans. It has decreased the homeless veterans in the area by 60%. This funding is attached to the Section 8 Program. The CDBG Committee discussed ways that PASS could be more competitive in receiving CDBG grants. She stated that PASS could form a housing authority that could show progress within a year, which is a requirement that is looked at closely when the Committee ranks project proposals.

George Sheats commented that he spent six months on the General Plan Committee discussing the establishment of a housing authority through the City of Prescott. The general consensus was that the City didn't have the staff or the management. It takes development and water for development, as well as large capital to initiate a housing authority, which Prescott is lacking. It is needed but it needs to be more of a county-wide effort.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Jones adjourned the meeting at 3:30p.m.


Jerry Jones, Chairman


Darla Eastman,
Administrative Specialist