

Columbus Consolidated Government

Summary of the Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC)

May 8, 2025

An in-person meeting of the Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC) was held on May 8, 2025, at 2:00 PM.

Members Present:

Brandy Tolbert, Denise Cambridge, James Jordan, Anthony Montgomery, and Adrian Wade

Members Absent:

Mike Welch, Tracy Belt, Tollie Strode Jr., and Julio Portillo

Also Present:

Community Reinvestment Staff: Rob Scott and Emma Kimbrel

Order of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 2:04 PM. With only five CDAC members present at first, the board did not meet the quorum requirement to conduct official business.

Discussion

Since there was no quorum, the approval of December 12, 2024, meeting minutes were postponed.

Board Chair Updates

Denise Cambridge, Board Chair, thanked everyone for their participation in National Community Development Week. She shared that there is interest in redoing the bus tour. Denise also highlighted upcoming volunteer activities, including opportunities with Clingstones.

Director's Report

HUD Entitlement Funding

Annual Action Plan

Rob Scott, Director of Community Reinvestment, provided an update on the Annual Action Plan and walked through the planned allocation of funds for the year. He shared details about CDBG projects, including public services, public facilities and infrastructure, and acquisition, as well as HOME funding projects.

Denise asked about how to better share the stories of funded projects with the community, and Rob explained the department's current communication methods.

James Jordan, board member, inquired about the SHINE program, asking if it involves new builds or existing homes. Rob explained that SHINE rehabilitates existing homes, with projects spread out rather than clustered. Rob noted that the program has been in development since 2023 and significant groundwork has been laid. Enrichment Services may be invited to present further details at a future meeting.

Adrian Wade, board member, also asked how the houses are acquired. Rob explained that initially the plan was for the City to purchase and lease the homes to Enrichment Services, but due to the City's preference not to act as landlord, it was changed to a reimbursable grant structure where Enrichment Services purchases the homes and is then reimbursed.

James asked about CHDO qualifications and whether Habitat for Humanity could be designated as one. Rob explained current CHDO requirements and why Habitat does not currently qualify, although this could change in the future.

Rob also shared about Nueva Valley, a HOME-funded project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and stated he would send an updated Allocated Funds document to include this project.

National Community Development Week (NCDW)

Rob thanked CDAC members for their participation and discussed the importance of community engagement. He highlighted volunteer opportunities at Mellon Street Pocket Park Public Meeting. Anthony Montgomery, board member, asked what could be put at this site, and Rob and Emma Kimbrel, Planner for Community Reinvestment, explained options for development at the park.

Open Floor Discussion

Denise asked about the Food Mill food pantry reopening due to a call she received. Rob said he was unsure but would reach out to find out and encouraged members to ask the department if they receive community calls about partner programs so staff can provide updates. Denise requested that Food Mill be invited to present on their Mobile Market.

Valley Healthcare was requested as a future presentation topic.

Emma shared that Charlotte Ingram resigned from the board. Additionally, members who have missed three meetings are eligible to be rolled off, which the Board Chair will handle with the Clerk of Council.

The council expressed interest in developing a mission statement, purpose statement, and potentially a newsletter.

Denise shared her CDAC "wishlist" which includes black bookbags, name tags, and CDAC shirts or baseball jerseys.

Adrian and James mentioned A&J and Thread Mob for marketing items and CDAC items.

Upcoming Presentations:

- July: The Food Mill & Valley Healthcare
- September: Enrichment Services & HARP

Next Meeting

The next CDAC meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2025, at 2:00 PM in person at the Annex, located at 420 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 PM.