

Columbus Consolidated Government

Minutes of the Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC)

March 13, 2025

A hybrid meeting (in-person and via Microsoft Teams) of the Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC) was held on March 13, 2025, at 2:00 PM.

Members Present:

Brandy Tolbert, Denise Cambridge, James Jordan, Anthony Montgomery, Mike Welch, Tracy Belt, and Adrian Wade

Members Absent:

Charlotte Ingram, Tollie Strode Jr., and Julito Portillo

Also Present:

Community Reinvestment Staff: Rob Scott and Aysia Merritt (substitute for Emma Kimbrel)

Order of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 2:05 PM. With only six CDAC members present at first, a little later in the meeting an additional member joined virtually but was not noted in time to recognize a quorum was present. The board did not, at the start of the meeting, meet the quorum requirement to conduct official business.

Discussion

Since a quorum was not noted in time, the approval of December 12, 2024, meeting minutes were postponed.

Board Chair Updates

Tracy Belt resigned effective immediately as Vice Chair. She stated that, due to a lack of availability with her new schedule, she will no longer be able to serve as Vice Chair. Denise and the Board thanked her for her service and expressed gratitude for her service.

Denise continued with Board Chair updates

Rob was asked how many applications were received for the Public Service applications. Rob responded that there were about 13.

A previously discussed letter that was to be sent to City Council was determined not to be sent to City Council anymore.

It was noted that Councilman Davis made a mention at the last February council meeting that he was interested in what each board specialized in. Denise warned that the board should be ready in case they are called on to present at City Council about what they do.

Director's Report

HUD Entitlement Funding

Annual Action Plan

Rob Scott, Director for Community Reinvestment, informed the board about the Public Hearing Meeting, March 26, 2025, to discuss the **FY26 Annual Action Plan (AAP)**. He also informed the board that this is when it will be revealed who will be receiving what funding. There were over \$600,00 - \$700,000 requested funds in applications and there is only a limited amount that can be spread over awarded applications. Rob encouraged all CDAC members to attend. Forty-five days before the upcoming fiscal year the final action plan is due and thus there may be another meeting.

Rob requested that Emma, Planner for Community Reinvestment, send the draft action plan to the board.

Public Service Applications

Rob noted that scoring will be finalized by next week and discussion regarding selections will begin.

There was discussion about which applications stood out and interesting points that the board saw while scoring the applications.

Farmer's Market

Rob explained the complexities that surround the farmer's market. He also discussed that the vision workshop for the farmer's market wouldn't be taking place due to instructions to cancel it. The board asked questions about why it was cancelled and what the city desired to do with the old farmer's market area. The board also asked whether the council was aware of the strings attached to the land upon clearing. Rob let the board know that he gave the council all relevant information about HUD stipulations as they pertain to the old farmer's market.

Rob noted that there was going to be a survey to gather public opinion but that also is on pause as well. Once updates are available, they will be provided to the board.

National Community Development Week (NCDW)

Rob updated the board about the classroom at Brewer Elementary School that the department adopted. He explained that this meant that he intended to be regular supportive presences in the classroom and assist them with what he can. In relation to NCDW, Rob expressed his interest in making an afternoon visit to the school with the CRD team and invited the board.

Rob also mentioned that there will be a bus tour that takes individuals through the city to look at CRD projects. Projects such as the Food Mill Shared Kitchen will be on the stops list. Denise asked when this would happen. Rob answered that as soon as it is solidified, he will let them know.

Rob highlighted that it is also going to be pointed out on this tour how different programs and efforts come together to produce amazing outcomes. He shared how at the land bank meeting Dew Point Farms came to present, sharing how the farm produces lots of products for the mobile food pantry. This is how different efforts are coming together to produce those amazing outcomes.

Rob spoke about the “You Do Amazing” Awards that they would like to do and that the staff has begun nominating individuals. There will be an awards ceremony during that week to recognize some friends of CRD who have helped the team move forward.

Open Floor Discussion

Rob began with an idea for open discussion to include looking at the flyer about the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. He mentioned that this initiative might be beneficial and has positively impacted cities across Georgia such as Norcross. Rob encouraged the board to look at it and consider its benefits.

Rob also mentioned the pilot project with Valley Healthcare. In this joint effort, he hopes to assist with providing dentures for the 62+ age population. Valley health also has a program that assists with dentures for recovering addicts as well that he found to be fascinating but hopes to help with 62+.

Rob mentioned how much he loved the work that Easter Seal’s is doing and commended Mike for all the hard work he has done. He also thanked him for the immense value he has added to the team.

Rob left.

Denise and the board discussed possible events that could be CDAC hosted for NCDW. Brandy and Denise discussed the book nooks and how that would be fun to include. Denise asked if there were any upcoming installations. Brandy mentioned that there was one that they were looking for to relocate to a new park that was built. It was located at a place where it was repeatedly vandalized and was taken down.

The board decided that the installation would be best, taking place the Tuesday, 22nd, or Thursday, 24th. Denise said she would consult Rob and Emma about which day would work best. It could also maybe include people bringing books to fill the book nook too after it is installed.

Denise asked if there were any ideas from those online. There weren’t. Adrian was interested in attending and asked to be kept up to date.

Tracy mentioned that while CDAC moves forward to make a name for themselves in the community, they should also continue to maintain partnerships with previous partners.

Rob texted Aysia to ask everyone about shirt sizes and to see if they liked the CDAC logo.

Everyone liked the logo and Denise recorded shirt sizes.

Denise asked if there were any more points of discussion.

Next Meeting

The next CDAC meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2025, at 2:00 PM in person at the Annex, located at 420 10th Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM.