

Community Development Advisory Board

Work Session Notes

February 11, 2019

Board members present: Mike Seufert, Steve Kempf, Charles Davis, Sr. Paula Rose Jauernig, Bobbie Snyder, and Kathryn Schiller. Board member Margaret McKane has resigned. Staff members present were Community Development Coordinator Mary Dwyer and Administrative Assistant Michelle Baragary.

Staff/board discussion: Home Repair

The home repair program offers up to \$5,000 for low income and \$3,000 for moderate income. The \$5,000 threshold was developed because once you go past that the federal government has many regulations in terms of lead based paint. The houses repaired are old enough they have lead based paint. We would need to remediate some of that if we go over the \$5,000 limit.

Last year 15 homes were repaired: 9 homes at \$5,000 or under and 6 homes with a combination of \$5,000 grant funds plus a loan from the housing trust-fund, which still allowed the home to qualify under the federal government guidelines because the loan is the applicant's money that will be paid back. This year there has also been 15 projects: 9 projects at \$5,000 or under and 6 homes at \$5,000 plus a loan. Approximately 40% of the applicants are getting a loan along with the grant.

Board members discussed two options: 1) keep the limits as they currently are and applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if there is a health and safety issue that justifies going over the \$5,000 limit or 2) increase the \$5,000 limit.

After discussion, the board agreed to keep the maximum limit at \$5,000 for low income homeowners and review repairs on a case-by-case basis to determine if more than \$5,000 is needed.

Staff/board discussion: Sub-recipient Awards

Discussion on refining the scoresheets; specifically the second item on the General Review Criteria "*the project meets a strategic priority of the City of Leavenworth*". After discussion the board determined strategic priority as housing, food, health, and safety.

Other programmatic discussion: Homeownership and Home Repair Program

Both the homeownership and home repair program state the person who applied for the grant cannot apply again unless 10 years has passed. It also states the 'home' may not have had assistance during this time. This makes sense in the home repair program. However, in the homeownership program it does not seem right to penalize someone for purchasing a house that someone else used the first time homeowner grant money toward. After discussion, the board unanimously (6-0) voted that the person may not reapply within 10 years but the property can be reused as a starter home and can again be processed as a first time homebuyer property. This change will start at the new grant year.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

MD/mb