NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE
March 14, 2017
Administrative Center – Room 2106

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Stoll Caucutt, Ralph Geary, Jason Gilman, Peggy Jerome, Roger Plesha, Anna Prinsen, Kevin Strangman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Fukuda, Charlie Handy, Karl Green, Delores Spies, Alex Spies, Joshua Wiedenbeck, Terri Pavlic

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Stoll Caucutt called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. New committee member Anna Prinsen was introduced.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2016
MOTION by Plesha/Gilman to approve the December 6, 2016 minutes of the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Review Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND CURRENT PROGRAM STATUS
Staff provided a brief overview of the program guidelines for this year. There are two programs that this committee reviews applications for:

• The Acquisition and Demolition Grant Program – if someone is purchasing an already cleared lot from the City of La Crosse, we would provide up to $10,000 to build a single family home; we would allow up to $50,000 for a single family grant if someone purchased an existing house where they would do the demolition themselves, and preparing the lot; and up to $100,000 in grant funding for multi-family projects. We started the year with $280,000; awarded $215,000 but not all of that was requested. We begin this year with $68,900 from last year that is available to be awarded. The County Board budgeted an additional $200,000 for this program, and we are working on a larger sale of property with the City of La Crosse that would provide $1m for County Neighborhood Revitalization Programs, but we have not closed on this deal yet.

• Solid Waste Disposal Program – this is a separate line item in the Solid Waste Department Budget; this allows them to waive tipping fees/disposal costs at the landfill for demolition debris for projects that are doing demolition themselves.

CONSIDERATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM WIED INVESTMENTS AND SPIES CONSTRUCTION
Included in the agenda packets are copies of two applications and scoring summaries for the Acquisition and Demolition Grant Program:

• Wied Investments: grant funding of up to $50,000 for the purposes of demolition of the existing structures on a lot and for site preparation (not including the foundation for the new home; this is in the Powell-Poage-Hamilton area. Project is taking existing property and building a new house; estimated value of new house is $190,000. Scored 85 out of 100 points. Staff is recommending approval. MOTION by Plesha/Jerome to approve; Motion carried unanimously.

• Spies Construction: grant funding for up to $17,000 for the purposes of demolition of the existing structure, installation of new sewer and water laterals, survey work on the site, and archeology work on the site; property is also in the Powell-Poage-Hamilton area. Current property is condemned due to a fire; estimated value of new single family home is $160,000-$175,000. Scored 76 out of 100 points. Staff is recommending approval. MOTION by Geary/Gilman to approve; Motion carried unanimously.
They have also requested a Solid Waste Disposal Grant for an estimated 71 tons of demolition debris from this site. Staff feels that 71 tons is overestimated and recommends awarding this grant for up to 35 tons. **MOTION** by Plesha/Geary to approve; **Motion carried unanimously**.

**REVIEW STATUS OF PREVIOUS GRANT PROJECTS**

Brian Fukuda distributed a handout showing our 2016 grant projects that have been completed:

1. **TN Thompson - 717 7th Street S. – Washburn**
   - Single-family home – completed – 1,800 SF finished; 1,088 SF unfinished in basement; 672 SF garage.
   - Recently sold for $180,000 – new buyer has applied for La Crosse Promise
   - Builder reported total costs of $184,650
   - Grant awarded = $25,000; grant drawn = $20,640

2. **Roush Rentals - 1025/1031 Green Bay Street – Powell –Poage-Hamilton**
   - 8 unit, multi-family – currently under construction
   - Expected completion this spring – minimum value of $650,000
   - Grant awarded = $100,000; grant drawn = $100,000

3. **Phillip Johnson - 513 9th Street S – Washburn**
   - Single-family home – house completed; still need to build garage
   - Family is occupying home – has received La Crosse Promise approval
   - Grant awarded = $15,000; grant drawn = $15,000

4. **La Crosse Community Housing Development Organization – corner of 5th & Mississippi – Washburn**
   - 7-unit, multi-family, detached housing – site has been cleared; getting final approvals to start construction in spring
   - Expected completion this fall – with minimum value of $1.1m
   - Grant awarded = $75,000; grant drawn = $0; also awarded waiver of 105 tons of solid waste disposal for demolition
   - Plans have changed some since this grant was awarded and a new site plan was distributed; end product will have the same units and value – they needed to change the design to meet the City’s requirements.
   - Committee reviewed the new plans and didn’t have any objections to the changes.

**SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE GRANT ROUNDS AND MEETINGS**

Last year we had 3 grant rounds (May, July, Sept), but the September grant round did not have any applicants. We would be looking at future grant rounds in May and July. Brian will use Doodle to schedule these meetings.

The County has received a request for funding support from the La Crosse Neighborhood Development Corporation and the Board Chair has asked that this request be considered for recommendation by this committee first. Brian will work with them on their proposal and schedule a special meeting (with Doodle) regarding this request.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Request for funding support from the La Crosse Neighborhood Development Corporation

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Jerome/Geary to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously**.

**APPROVED May 24, 2017 - Recorded by Terri Pavlic**