

**Audubon Area Community Services, Inc.**  
***Community Support Committee***  
***MINUTES***  
March 19, 2009

The Community Support Committee meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm by Committee Chairman Marshall Hatfield.

***Members Present:***

Mr. Jerry Manning

Mr. Marshall Hatfield

***Staff Present:***

Ms. Sheila Boling, Housing Services Director

Ms. Tracie Howe, GRITS Assistant Director—Administration

Mr. Michael Hughes, GRITS Assistant Director—Operations

Mr. Dan Lanham, GRITS Transit System manager

***NEW BUSINESS / COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT***

**Green River Intra-county Transit System (GRITS) Transportation.**

Mr. Lanham presented updates on a number of new developments with GRITS.

**State of Good Repair Grant.** Mr. Lanham announced that GRITS had been notified that it would receive \$450,000 from its “State of Good Repair” grant proposal. GRITS will need to provide a 10% match for these funds. As a result of the grant approval, an order had been placed for ten (10) “10&2” buses, i.e., buses with ten seats and two wheelchair anchors, at a total cost of \$463,430. The Office of Transportation Delivery (OTD) has allowed GRITS to use \$18,000 in proceeds from a recent insurance claim.

**America Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.** The second phase (Phase II) of the parking garage was approved for \$3.4 million dollars, and the Governor made that announcement March 19<sup>th</sup> at Owensboro City Hall.

Mr. Lanham commended OTD and its director, Vickie Bourne, for her excellent and persistent assistance in getting Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approval for the “stimulus” award. The first time the request was sent in to FTA it was rejected due to the misunderstanding that the project had not been set up in *two* “phases.” The OTD hung in there, and between them and the engineer they went back again to FTA and it was approved.

Mr. Lanham said he had spoken to the contractor and had been told that the finished three-story, 290-slot garage can be ready by December 2009. Mr. Lanham said that OTD had indicated that “stimulus” money may be available for the parking garage project as early as April 1, 2009.

GRITS was also awarded \$665,000 from OTD’s “stimulus” funding for seven (7) hybrid buses. Hybrids cost more but the upside is that there is no match required, said Mr. Lanham.

In addition, GRITS received \$49,000 for a 500 amp portable generator. The only draw back on the generator is that its empty weight is 8,500 pounds. GRITS will have to purchase something to pull it. Whatever is purchased will need to have dual rear wheels for safety purposes.

**GRITS FY2010 Grants Update.** April 1<sup>st</sup> is the due date for GRITS' FY2010 grant proposals and refunding requests. The following grants and funding amounts are being requested:

2009-10	"5309" Grant Maintenance Facility				
		Option A	\$1,441,100.00		\$1,441,100
		Option B	\$1,205,600.00		
2009-10	"5310" Grant	(2) Minivans @	\$37,000		\$ 74,000
		(2) Cutaway Buses @	\$50,000		\$ 100,000
2009-10	"5311" Grant	Operating Subsidy			\$ 500,000
		(2) Minivans			\$ 74,000
		(2) Cutaway Buses			\$ 100,000
2009-10	"5316" JARC Grant	(6) Hybrid Buses @	\$95,000		\$ 570,000
		(6) Minivans			\$ 222,000
2009-10	"5317" New Freedom Grant	(8) Ramp low floor buses	\$95K		\$ 760,000
		Camera systems for buses			\$ 475,000
		County transportation fund			\$ 66,528

**Total Requests**

**\$4,382,628**

In the "New Freedom" program GRITS is actually asking for funds to help provide transportation to persons who do *not* qualify for Medicaid and are not capable of paying for their own transportation.

GRITS also seeks funds to purchase eight (8) lowered-floor, ramp-equipped, cut-away chassis buses. These buses go above and beyond ADA requirements. The ramp will be 34 inches wide in lieu of the 30 inches required by ADA to accommodate wider wheelchairs, the ramp will have a 900 pound capacity in lieu of the 800 pound capacity as required by the ADA, and the ramp will be 56 inches long which will allow for a lower slope, thus enabling easier loading and unloading of client who exceed normal ADA weight restrictions. Use of ramped vehicle in lieu of a lift equipped vehicle will provide for a less frightening experience for all clients but particularly for those who have a fear of heights.

*Rev. Manning and Mr. Hatfield jointly endorsed the FY2010 GRITS grant requests and recommend approval to the AACS Board of Directors.*

**GRITS Shines During the Late-January Ice Storm.** GRITS transported about 150 persons to shelters during the late-January ice storm. The National Guard was not able to come immediately and GRITS felt obligated to help out. GRITS gave Emergency Management Services a handheld radio and had drivers on call 24 hours a day. Mr. Lanham said that he hoped to improve GRITS' response in Union and Webster counties during any future disasters.

Mr. Manning suggested doing something special for the drivers that helped out during the storm.

**Parking Garage Construction Progress.** The new GRITS office at the downtown parking garage has come along nicely, said Mr. Lanham. It now has a coat of primer on the walls, window frames, glass and air. Now the staff must wait for Phase II to be completed before it can move into the new facility.

## **Housing Services Department.**

Ms. Boling presented updates on a number of new developments with Audubon's affordable housing tax-credit properties, the Lincolnshire properties, and the Weatherization Assistance Program.

**The Learning Villa — Probationary Students.** After receiving the status of students at the end of the school semester, it has been determined that ten students had either dropped their full-time status or their GPA fell below the required 2.0. The Learning Villa Board will be meeting with all of these students to determine what happened in the student's life to cause this and also what their plans are to get back into compliance with the "Scholar House" program.

In order to remain at The Learning Villa and receive their housing subsidy, the residents must maintain full-time status and keep their GPA at or above 2.0. This March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will put these students on probation until the end of the next semester. If at that time, they have not complied with the requirements, the Housing Authority and Kentucky Housing Corporation will pull their housing subsidy. This would mean that they will no longer have assistance with their rent and would be required to pay full Market Rent for their unit.

Most of the residents/students understand this, but one (1) student that states pulling her subsidy is illegal and the project cannot require her to maintain the "Scholar House" requirements. She has informed us that she will be bringing her attorney with her to the Board meeting. Mr. Manning inquired into how that worked and Ms. Boling explained that everyone signed "Scholar House" documents at move-in and all of this is in great detail in the documents. They are also explained these requirements at their initial meeting with the Board and also again at move-in.

**Independence Heights.** Independence Heights, a 24-unit complex on Strawbridge (behind Seven Hills Elementary School), officially opened in February. As of today's date, there remains only one (1) vacancy. Ms. Howe inquired into this being the complex for foster youth. Ms. Boling stated that it was, but AACS did not as yet have any foster youth referred and residing at the complex, so due to immediate tax-credit delivery obligations it had to fill it with other eligible low-income families. Mr. Hughes asked what would happen if foster youth began to apply. Ms. Boling stated that AACS could not make anyone move out to accommodate the foster youth. The eligible foster youth would be put on a waiting list as any other applicant for the next available unit.

**Horizon Place.** Horizon Place, a 34-unit complex for 55+ and older, will open its smaller 8-unit building approximately the first week of April, if all inspections pass. A representative from Kentucky Housing Corporation inspected the building on Tuesday and the items that he did find have been corrected. A representative from Homeland was scheduled to inspect today. The smaller building does not have an elevator, so there is a small problem renting the second floor. Homeland is anticipating having the larger building completed by May, but Ms. Boling was in it this week and there is still a lot of work to be completed. AACS will be hiring the manager for this complex very shortly.

**Replacement of Roofs at Lincolnshire/Lincolnshire North.** The replacement of the roofs at Lincolnshire were slated to begin this past Monday, but the shingles were not delivered as scheduled. The contractor hopes to begin Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The majority of the roofs have three layers of roofing and all of this will be torn off and re-shingled. AACS did get all of the bids in and the winning bid was awarded *before* the 40% increase in shingle prices at the first of March.

**Weatherization Update.** AACS has not yet been advised of the specific dollar amount it would receive from "stimulus" dollars. A preliminary conversation with the State gave an indication that AACS' program could increase to as much as \$3-\$5 million. AACS' Weatherization Assistance Program currently receives approximately \$545,000 per year. With this influx of dollars, AACS will be hiring additional staff and may possibly have to rent new warehouse space.

The income limits will be increasing to 200% of the poverty guidelines, but staff have been instructed not to put this in print until final word is received from the State. Mr. Manning stated that he is attending several meetings and handing out Weatherization information to everyone for applications.

Ms. Boling said that she would be attending the CAK Board meeting tomorrow in Lexington and hopes to have more information when returning.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

Mr. Hatfield asked if anyone had more business and everyone said no.

There being no further business,

*A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.*