

Audubon Area Community Services, Inc.
Community Support Committee
MINUTES
May 28, 2009

The Community Support Committee meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm by Committee Chairman Marshall Hatfield.

Members Present:

Mr. Paul Hart

Mr. Marshall Hatfield

Rev. Jerry Manning

Staff Present:

Ms. Sheila Harper, Housing Services Director

Ms. Tracie Howe, GRITS Assistant Director—Administration

Mr. Dan Lanham, GRITS Transit System Manager

NEW BUSINESS & COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT

GRITS Transportation.

Parking Garage. Mr. Lanham let the Committee know that he and Mr. Logsdon were in close contact with the state regarding the second phase of the parking garage. The state Office of Transportation Delivery (OTD), Kentucky Transportation Cabinet sent AACS a signed contract in April 2009. After the contract was sent, OTD became concerned about not bidding out the second phase. They said it might appear that Hartz Construction was the “sole source” for the contract. They asked Mr. Lanham to find the language that said this was ok. He did find language that said the following requirements must be met, to wit:

1. Unacceptable Delay
2. Duplication of Cost

If Hartz finishes the job they have to do all of the landscaping. If a new contractor comes in they would tear out this landscaping and then we would have the expense of adding more. The state called the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) yesterday and was told that the office had been short-handed and they were behind. They were told to call him back today at 1:30 p.m. and he should know by then.

If this plan fails we will have to go to a different plan. The plan will then be as a designed bid proposal. Hopefully it will be approved “as is.” AACS did get a letter from De-Am-Ron that said if the project is delayed much longer they will have to lay off thirty (30) people. A copy of this letter has been sent to the state and they have forwarded it to the FTA.

America Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The ARRA-approved buses are on order and AACS/GRITS has hired one of the new “ARRA” employees. Her name is Jean Dickens; she has 18 years experience in the information and technology field.

Mr. Lanham informed the Committee that he was still working on the mobile generator. There is some confusion on what size it is supposed to be. AACS needs 500 amps to power the new building 100%. The problem is 500 amps, ok, but what voltage? The electrical engineer for the parking garage has agreed to help us figure that out. This purchase will have to be bid out, said Mr. Lanham.

HSTD Region 5 Subcontractor Issues. Mr. Lanham said that there was a Medicaid regulation change in January 2009 which may cause GRITS in its role as Human Services Delivery (HSTD) “broker” to have to broker out more rides to the Region 5 for-profit subcontractors. A meeting with both Region 5 brokers was held May 5th at the OTD office in Frankfort to discuss the regulatory change.

FY2010 Grants Update — “5309,” “5310,” “5311,” “5316,” and “5317.” Mr. Lanham said that the “5311” operating assistance grant would get an increase in FY2010, but he wasn’t sure how much. The “5310” capital assistance account would allow GRITS to get some new equipment, but he was not sure how much. The “5309” is “earmark” money, he said. GRITS has asked for several things, such as a maintenance facility for one. We are hearing that there may be some “earmark” money available this year, he said.

Transportation Infrastructure Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions (TIGGER) Grant. The TIGGER Grant was submitted the previous Friday, said Mr. Lanham. There was a \$2,000,000 minimum request for the TIGGER grant. So GRITS asked for seven (7) hybrid cut-away buses, which would total about \$600,000. GRITS included OTS (Owensboro Transit System) in its TIGGER grant request (for two hybrid transit buses at \$600,000 per bus). Also included in the GRITS application was Kentucky River Foothills for six (6) hybrid cut-away buses and four (4) hybrid sport utility vehicles, he said.

Community Transportation Association Conference. Mr. Lanham advised the Committee that he and Michael Hughes would be out next week for a CTAA Conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

Winter Ice Story Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Lanham said that Kentucky Second District Congressman Brett Guthrie came to Owensboro and presented GRITS a *Certificate of Appreciation* for its significant contributions and help during the late-January 2009 ice storm.

Transportation Management Software. Mr. Lanham advised the Committee that he had received bids on new transportation-management software packages, and those are currently being reviewed. All appear to be considerably over the available acquisition budget, he said. GRITS presently uses *RouteMatch* to manage its coordination, dispatching and reporting of services under its HSTD Medicaid “Brokerage” contract with the Transportation Cabinet, but that software is in need of upgrading or replacement.

Housing Services Department.

Weatherization Assistance Program. There is still no work on the “stimulus” dollars for the weatherization program, said Ms. Harper. Ms. Harper noted that she had attended a weatherization conference in Kansas City, Missouri, last month and the word there was that DOE might not release the “stimulus” regulations and information until the first week of July 2009. She and the executive director will be attending the National Weatherization Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

No word has been received on AACS’ “current” weatherization budget for fiscal year 2009-2010. Normally by this time of the year, she would have already submitted it to the state.

There have been discussions on what impact of the additional “stimulus” dollars would have on the program. Ms. Harper stated that AACS would be hiring additional staff and additional contractors. One issue that she is facing is the fact that staff cannot work in the Weatherization program on a job-site without training. Currently that training is three week’s intensive training. AACS is also facing the fact that it does not presently have the number of applications needed to “ramp up” production as will be needed under the “stimulus” funding. Rev. Manning stated that he had distributed Weatherization flyers and information to every company, church, agency that he could think of.

Horizon Place. Horizon Place, 34-unit complex for 55+ and older has completed and completely rented up the smaller 8-unit complex. The bigger building was supposed to open this week, but due to the fact that Horizon Place does not yet have phone service — and the fire alarm is connected to that, there will be no Certificate of Occupancy issued until that is taken care of. According to Dennis of the AACS “IT” Department, this should be taken care of by Friday, June 5th. Yesterday, there was sod stolen at the Horizon Place, she said. There have been several thefts of items at this site.

Owensboro Regional Recovery. Framing is up and construction is going very well. The development is still behind schedule by several weeks, but they are hoping to make up some time with good weather.

Section 8 Expiring Contracts — *Lincolnshire/Lincolnshire North Apartments.* The Section 8 Expiring Contracts have been completed by Ms. Harper. There is a meeting scheduled with one of the auditors from Alexander & Company the first week of June. After Ms. Harper does the general budget, a representative from Alexander & Company assists with the mortgages and the “OCAF” (operating cost adjustment factor) adjustments. As soon as these are finished, the documentation will be submitted to Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) for review and KHC will issue the new schedule of 2009-2010 approved rents.

The Learning Villa. The Learning Villa’s tenant-students are currently awaiting their end-of-semester grades. Several tenants were put on probation last semester for falling below the 2.0 GPA that is required for their full-time status.

Today, said Ms. Harper, she, David Condon, and a professor from a local college met with a resident of The Learning Villa that was put on probation last semester. He has not maintained his GPA this semester either. According to the rules of living at The Learning Villa, tenant-students are only allowed to be put on probation *one* time. But this individual is requesting an accommodation for a learning disability. This will be taken under review by the Housing Authority as they will be the one that will remove their housing assistance.

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 1:35 p.m.

Marshall Hatfield
Committee Chair