CONSOLIDATED PLAN CONSULTATION MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

The following people attended the Consolidated Plan Consultation Meeting and Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall, 270 River Avenue, Holland, MI 49423, in the 2nd Floor Training Center.

City Staff Present – these staff members served support roles during the meeting from running the slide show and/or registration table to taking notes during the meeting.

Joel Dye Community Development Coordinator
Sue Harder Outreach Specialist
Danielle Weeks Home Repair Program Manager & Code Enforcement
Tricia Dreier Housing Inspector

Members of the Community and Agencies Present – these individuals represented their agencies, organizations, and themselves.

Judy VanDyke Good Samaritan Ministries
Linda Jacobs Good Samaritan Ministries
Mark Kornelis Good Samaritan Ministries
Nancy Haynes Fair Housing Center of West Michigan
Andrew Spidahl Washington School Neighbors
Bryan Gras Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity
Jeanette Brownson Westcore Neighbors
Patrick Cisler Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance/OCHSCC
Brian Wolthuis 3Sixty
Nate Schipper Washington School Neighbors
Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas Washington School Neighbors

General Consultation Minutes:

Sue Harder started off the meeting welcoming those present and reviewing the reason for the meeting. Harder reviewed Community Development Block Grant Funding Program (CDBG) Regulations and the history of CDBG funding in the City of Holland. During his presentation, Dye mentioned that the previous Community Social Service Assistance Funding Program (CSSA) and Leisure & Cultural Service Funding Program (LCS) will more than likely not be offered this year by the City. Harder then reviewed several data points as it related to social economic conditions in the City of Holland through a Power Point Presentation.

Public Discussion on Needs:

Those present then had an open discussion on the needs that they are seeing in the community. Below is a summary of each of the statements made.

DISCUSSION ON NEEDS and SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATION

- **Patrick Cisler- Lakeshore Non-Profit Alliance** – They do a basic needs assessment for Ottawa County every three years.

- **Nancy Haynes- Fair Housing Center** – Nancy gave an overview of FHC: They have a $7,000 contract this year with the City of Holland and Nancy says that grant is good leverage to get other grants. They do not have caller ID, so callers can be anonymous. They investigate complaints of City residents and those wanting to live in Holland. Help resolve disputes over fair housing issues. They do letter writing for reasonable accommodations issues (grab bars, ramps, etc.). They will be partnering with the City of Holland for MLK Jr. Day. Nancy listed needs as: many complaints on familial status. Did an investigation of condo associations and found that 79% of bylaws had violations, i.e., “no more than 2 kids under 5 years old” and says a lot of it is lack of knowledge of the laws. The FHC receives a lot of calls/complaints regarding discrimination based on race, national origin and source of income – note: you can only deny on amount of income, but not a legal source (child support, housing choice voucher, etc.). Nancy stated the number of complaints in City of Holland vary, but there is an
average of about 10 a year. Noted outside of Grand Rapids, Holland is their strongest tie. They are always looking for testers – they pay a small stipend but you will not know the results (you are not told what you’re testing). She asked that you forward any inquiries to her and she will forward the FHC end of year report to that person.

- **Andrew Spidahl - Washington School Neighbors** – People need to find a way to get better integrated/get more familiar with neighbors. How can we address that and bring people together? Sees a need for green space – places for people to gather; intimate neighborhood spaces versus large parks. Says City already does a good job with parks. Would like to see a relationship-based initiative; getting to know people creates trust. Make good connections to learn what is happening with neighbors themselves. Stated Washington Elementary School property is a big topic in their area.

- **Patrick Cisler- LNA/OCHSCC** – Biggest project now is affordable housing. Many are shelter overburdened. Paying more than 30% of year income for housing. In Ottawa County, about 8,000 households are shelter overburdened.

- **Brian Wolthuis- 3Sixty** – A lot of their opportunities come through construction/building, etc. They see a need for construction project assistance; tool lending library needed, which they are currently working on (Their goal is to fully launch tool lending library by summer 2015), a trailer for moving materials (lawn mower), junk, etc. They have one intern house and another one they are finishing. They are building relationships and skills are exchanged.

- **Mark Kornelis- Good Samaritan Ministries** - Main issue is lack of affordable housing for those at the bottom of the income ladder. The tent City group is still around, just more dispersed. There are ways to get those persons (or those who have been at the Mission for a long time) into housing, but they need the housing to put them into. They recently got 4-6 long-term tent/street folks into housing. There is a shortage on one-bedroom units below $500/month range.

- **Patrick Cisler- LNA/OCHCC** – They saw 700 clients through the Mission last year. 2/3 of these clients had stable income, but of those only 12 made it into stable housing.

- **Judy VanDyke- Good Samaritan Ministries** – Have contract with City for Neighborhood Connectors; four sites. In 2012, they contracted with the Frost Center at Hope College to do neighborhood surveys. In 2014, 2nd rounds of surveys were done in Washington School Neighbors and Westcore areas. There were several areas of improvement in surveys from 2012 to 2014, including 23% increase in residents who feel their neighborhood is excellent; over 100% increase in those who felt their housing values increased; 22% said they trust immediate neighbor issues. On the negative side, 20% who named gang violence as #1 neighborhood issue; lack of familiarity increased 35%; and housing code violations also went up.

- **Linda Jacobs- Good Samaritan Ministries** – Neighborhood Improvement Committee (NIC) can look at tables/results of surveys (there is a lot of data). Encourages the City to look at a balance of looking at issues of people and places; both are equally important for a healthy community.

- **Jeannette Brownson- Westcore Neighbors** – Nuestra Casa is a great model of collaboration. It will be complete in January 2015. Two Hope students will be living in Nuestra Casa. Nuestra Casa will have a tool lending library. Jeannette states there is not enough affordable housing available.

- **Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas- Washington School Neighbors** – Neighborhood Connectors is about building relationships. An upfront need is to build relationships from one neighbor to the next so they can begin helping one another, build partnerships between organizations, churches, etc. A highlight this year- in June WSN worked on a neighborhood garden project and saw the neighborhood coming together; people of all races, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds working together.

- **Bryan Gras- Lakeshore Habitat** – Partner with Good Sam on 5/3 Grant. Says there is a lack of property to build new houses on. Looking to collaborate with City on Home Repair Projects.

- **Nate Schipper- Washington School Neighbor** – Appreciates partnership between Washington School Neighbors and the City of Holland.
• **Joel Dye** – New 5-year plan to HUD; Joel, Sue, Linda and Danielle will be working on this plan. If you have information/data you want in the plan, please get to that to Joel as soon as possible. A draft of the CDBG 5-year plan will be submitted to the NIC at the January 2015 meeting.

• **Joel Dye** - written comments must be submitted by 5:00pm by Tuesday, December 16, 2014.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- Opened at 5:00 p.m.
- No additional comments.
- Closed at 5:05 p.m.

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The following comments were offered via email after the meeting:

**Judy Van Dyke**  
**Neighborhood Connections Director**  
**Good Samaritan Ministries**

Good Samaritan Ministries received the results from the neighborhood survey that was distributed in September, 2014 in the Westcore and Washington School neighborhoods. This survey was created by the Hope College Frost Center and has been distributed in Heights of Hope, Eastcore/3sixty, Washington School and Westcore neighborhoods.

Current findings are comparisons between 2012 and 2014 in the Washington School and Westcore neighborhoods. Improvements are based on the percentage of residents responded.

- 23% increase in residents who felt their neighborhood was excellent.
- 20.4% decrease in residents that named gang violence as an issue.
- Over a 100% increase in residents who felt home values improved.

Areas of improvement:

Residents continue to identify lack of familiarity with neighbors as the number one issue. This was an increase in 2014. Housing code violations has been identified as one of the top issues for residents in 2014.