

REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
April 20, 2005

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Wednesday, April 20, 2005 at 8:35 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Lori Cardin presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Marc W. Plamondon, Vice Chair
 Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
 Alderman Kevin E. Gage
 Alderman David D. Lozeau

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department
 Klaas Nijhuis, Deputy Manager, Urban Programs Department
Re: Community Development Block Grant and HOME Program

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE
MOTION CARRIED**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-05-188

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter

 Alderman Lori Cardin

 Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner

Alderman Marc W. Plamondon

Alderman David D. Lozeau

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF GRANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$300,000 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT 374-7267 FOR JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE TRANSIT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

I'd like to inquire if somebody could explain to me what reverse commute transit is?

Chairman Cardin

I'm sure Mr. Newman would be happy to explain that to you.

Alderman Deane

Does that have to do with going backwards or something?

Paul Newman

Paul Newman, Manager of Urban Programs Department. This is actually an extension of the National initiative of the welfare to work which is intended to transition those receiving assistance to employment and to get off public assistance. Really it is a small component of a much larger national initiative. This part of it was our federal representative's consideration that people do need transportation to get to jobs to make that strategy work. It is intended to increase generally access to employment. Both the opportunity to get to job opportunities for the interviews and also to get to work. The City competed for these funds back in 2001 and was one of only 40 transit operators across the country to successfully get an allocation of job access funds. This is a continuation of that program. What it enabled Nashua to do was to add one City bus making going from 4 to 5. By doing that, we reconfigured the routes back in 2002 and eliminated many layovers at the transit station for transfers so that the people could get to work in a quicker time and also reconfigure the routes so there was more frequent service to many parts of the City. It also pays for one of the vans. That aspect of it is to customize service for people that may have particularly child care needs wherein they cannot get to their childcare facility on a City bus route. We can offer a ride and enable them to get to their childcare facility, drop the child off, then get to a City Bus route to continue on to their place of work. It is 50 percent funded through the federal job access program, and 50 percent match comes all from the State's temporary assistance to needy families. So it is a tremendous amount of additional service of about 35,000 trips per year that are provided in the City at no costs for our residents.

Alderman Deane

Paul, how much does it cost to administer these grants?

Paul Newman

There's actually no administrative costs in this budget. It is all direct service.

Alderman Deane

Well it's the bus drivers, the van drivers...

Paul Newman

Dispatch, maintenance, fuel.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Alderman Lozeau

Paul if I may, is that type of busing on a route type of a basis or is it an on demand type of a basis through a dispatcher?

Paul Newman

The City Bus part of it is just one of our City buses on a fixed route. Then the van part is a

reservation trip by request – a reservation a day in advance at least 24 hours.

Alderman Lozeau

Is there a charge to the users of that service or is that a free service?

Paul Newman

They both pay. They pay as they do for the regular service if they can afford it. There are a certain amount of clients of department services that we do provide a limited number of tickets to for those who are particularly trying to acquire employment where they may not have the income to pay for the transit.

Alderman Lozeau

That's a great program. Thank you.

Paul Newman

I have spoken to the legislative staff here and there is a need to have this reported out at the full Board meeting next week in order to meet the rather long timeline for this to go to the State's Executive Council in June. It's on the weeks, and weeks, and weeks of lead time. I'd be glad to work with the Chair and the office here to perhaps report out either accept from the minutes or orally. Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

R-05-189

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter

Alderman Lori Cardin

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner

Alderman Marc W. Plamondon

Alderman David Lozeau

Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$497,050 OBTAINED
FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT INTO
SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #352-6514, "MINE FALLS PARK HUD GRANT –
PHASE III"**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-05-189

ON THE QUESTION

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Alderman Deane

With the level of excitement raised by Alderman Plamondon, I would appreciate Amy Gill or whomever is here to represent the Public Works Division to give us an overview of where the \$497,000 is going to be allocated for.

Chairman Cardin

I'm sure Amy would be happy to do that Alderman Deane. She's been waiting all night just to do that.

Alderman Plamondon

I have enough excitement Madam Chair that I could into it as well. But, I'll defer to Amy Gill.

Amy Gill

Good evening Madam Chairman. I was very happy that Alderman Plamondon was so excited about this project as are we and many of the citizens of Nashua. As stated in the resolution, this is the third phase of the HUD money that we have received. Money directly is to restore and improve Mine Falls Park. Some of the projects that are included in this phase are projects that were included in the Master Plan that was approved in 2001. Projects include a pedestrian bike bridge that is going to be located hopefully near north 7th Street entrance to provide access to the downtown area. That is one thing that seems to be lacking in the park is a good access for the downtown area, improvement to main entrances of the park – particularly Whipple Street, restoration in some areas to the Canal – we are going to do additional signage, including informational as well as directional signage, which as you can see some has been installed already but more needs to be done. We are looking to improve the boat ramp also near the gatehouse. There is quite significant erosion that has been occurring there. Those are some of the projects that we will be doing for the \$497,000 that we will be receiving.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Amy.

Alderman Plamondon

I just want to share some more excitement. We've talked about this for some time. We've had a lot of focus as far as (1) there is a need for an inner city/downtown entrance. We looked at a couple locations. This particular location on north 7th Street fits the immediate needs in many ways. One is the ongoing work with the Nashua Heritage Rail Trail in tying in the rail trail and this entrance into Mine Falls. It would be a huge asset. The other is its location in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club, the Nashua West fields, Ledge Street School, and of course neighborhood access. Then there is also a lot of senior housing in this area. There is also low income housing in this area. So it gives access to Mine Falls. Currently there is an entrance there, but nobody really knows it is there. This entrance on north 7th Street needs a lot of work. By opening it up, putting a pedestrian bridge across the canal there, which would then we would have another loop trail connecting obviously both sides of the canal over to Soifert Field – just greatly enhances the park as well as...it would be a very large asset as I said earlier to the community.

The other thing this does or has done is by looking at this we've also seen how because this area has been neglected and hasn't been looked at in a long time, we're starting to see where there's been a considerable encroachment into City property in this area. It's good we are looking at this, and we will resolve all the issues as far as pedestrian safety and working in conjunction with a livable, workable communities are also supportive of this. I'm glad to see this momentum. It's really picking up steam.

Alderman Lozeau

Yes thank you for this and thank you for your dedication in this project. I represent Ward 5. Ward 5 is one of the infrastructure of the Mine Falls Park system. I believe it goes through Ward 1, Ward 4, Ward 5. Speaking prejudiciously from my ward, I'd like to see a little bit more work going on on the trails specifically some lights that have been in very poor repair. I just wondered if you could comment on that whether any other work is going to be done through the Mine Falls district?

Amy Gill

I'm not sure in particular where those lights are that you are interested in, but I can certainly get back to you...

Alderman Lozeau

Those would be in Ward 1 on the other side of the river.

Amy Gill

I'm not aware of any lights which trail would that be?

Alderman Lozeau

The one that comes out at Lincoln Park into the park.

Amy Gill

Oh, associated with Lincoln Park. I'm not sure what the status with that, but I can certainly find out from Parks Department to see if they are aware of any lighting that is going on. I'll get back to you Alderman Lozeau on that.

Alderman Lozeau

Okay. Thank you very much.

MOTION CARRIED

R-05-196

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter

Alderman Lori Cardin

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner

Alderman Kevin E. Gage

Alderman David D. Lozeau

Alderman Marc W. Plamondon

Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS GRANT, FISCAL YEAR
2006**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO AMEND R-05-196 BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING
LANGUAGE “AND THAT THE ‘CONSOLIDATED PLAN OF THE CITY OF NASHUA, 2005-
2010’ BE ADOPTED BY REFERENCE. THE PLAN SHALL BE ON FILE FOR INSPECTION
AT THE CITY CLERK’S OFFICE, 229 MAIN STREET, CITY HALL, NASHUA, NH”**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Cardin

Thank you Alderman Tollner. As you all know and probably got copies of the draft consolidated plan that we'll be taking up on Monday night, we're adding that as a reference to this resolution. Paul, did you want to add something?

Paul Newman

Just briefly. You all received those on the committee a copy of the plan. There's also one in the legislative office and of course, it's now on the City's website gonashua.com. The city departments, Community Development, Urban Programs. The copy you received is a draft and there are still some edits for editorial type changes we need to make in the text and a few additions that we simply didn't have time to get in but wanted to get it to you for tonight's agenda rather than wait until next Monday. So you'll have at least a couple of weekends. An opportunity to look it over.

Alderman Lozeau

Yes Madam Chair. I'm just a little confused as to why R-05-196 is tied into this. I just don't understand why. Didn't I just read R-05-196 and then amend it. I'm just trying to understand why that was...

Chairman Cardin

We're bringing this in. This is a requirement. A HUD requirement.

Alderman Lozeau

For the funding of that we are requesting for 196?

Chairman Cardin

Yes.

Alderman Lozeau

Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you. I'd like to open it up for discussion on the funding plan for CDBG and HOME funds.

Alderman Deane

Thank you. First off, thank you for allowing me to speak.

Chairman Cardin

You're welcome. I'm like that.

Alderman Deane

I listened to a lot of the testimony pertaining to 2 Shattuck Street. I understand some of the frustrations and maybe there was some communication issues involved there. Some of the items pertaining to problems that some of the residents are having in that area, if somebody is having problems with water pressure as was stated, or the pipes may be not producing or sending enough water to their house, they should be contacting the Pennichuck Water Works Company. If there is sewer backups, the City is responsible for keeping open lines out in the street as well as five feet up onto your property. If there are continued backups, that should be a phone call to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We've just spent about \$370,000 on a brand new vehicle that takes care of those items.

The parking enforcement issue for the life of me I don't understand how there could be a parking enforcement issue up there. The parking enforcement officer in the City of Nashua spends quite a bit of time in north Nashua. I am really surprised that he doesn't make it up to that area. Perhaps Alderman Gage could send the Chief a little message and let him know that we might be desperate need of his services in that area.

The other parking problems that were brought up. But low and behold when you look at this, it's this committee's has a right to vote on funding for different projects. A lot of the items that were brought up this evening are Zoning Board and Planning Board items that have to be dealt with upstairs. Whether this committee chooses to fund this project or not, it will have absolutely no bearing on decisions that are made upstairs by those two different boards. I would just hope that everybody would understand it.

Paul, perhaps you could correct me, I had arrived at home and I heard Acting Mayor McCarthy up here making remarks that we should pretty dissolve the current funding items that have been requested and put it towards the budget crisis that we have. As Alderman Gage had told me, people had made remarks about using HOME funds to build a fire station. You are the professional and the expert. I don't believe that would be allowable.

Paul Newman

HOME funds could not be applied to that (inaudible).

Alderman Deane

Okay. So that answers that question. That's what I thought but I just wanted to hear from you. I was a little taken aback by the remarks that were made by the Acting Mayor pertaining to what to do with these funds. He's been sitting on this Board for over 12 years. He's been part of the architecture of the financial issues that we currently have today. I always looked at these

monies and I served for one term on this committee and I always looked at the individuals and the operations that would come in with the projects and ask for opportunities for help. This committee would go through it very carefully and they'd send funding to different agencies. I always looked at this, granted it was run a little differently in the past where lots of monies were put into sidewalks and things like that, but I find it difficult. I wouldn't support dissolving the funding that's been asked for by these different agencies to take care of architectural issues of the City budget. I think that is absolutely – I would never support doing that. We've created a relationship with a lot of the agencies in the City, and I think we should continue to be doing business with them because little do we realize the dollar value that they offer to the community. When you look at the small amounts of money that they are asking for, it doesn't equal what it would cost the City if they had to pay to provide the same services. I think that should be put into play. I'd like to thank the committee for allowing me to speak.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Alderman Deane. I concur with your comments. Thank you.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you Madam Chairman. Just for the public's information, we've met on this particular grant a few times with some good detailed discussions as far as how we came up with some of the funding decisions that we did. Just to build on what Alderman Deane said, if I'm not mistaken I think it was either 6 or 8 years ago, and I think I've stated this before, this committee made a decision to change the course of how we use community development block grant money. I've seen some graphs that have been presented to us where the line was going up for a number of years on the funding for sidewalks and things like that. The programs for really people and individuals to try and get them off their feet, get the moving forward, and allow them an opportunity to purchase houses or participate in programs. At that time it was pretty flat. I think if you look at now, those two lines have gone in the opposite direction. Over the last month or so, I think myself as well as the Chairman have been asked is that the way it should go. That is the plan that we put in place a number of years ago. I can't think of a better way to spend community development block grant money than on programs that help people and that help neighborhoods.

As Alderman Deane said with regard to Shattuck Street, I was over there this weekend. I understand the neighbors concerns. A lot of the questions are concerns that they brought up tonight are truly planning and zoning decisions to be made by both those boards. As far as parking, that facility will never be approved unless the Zoning Board dictates that there is enough parking for that facility. We see that all the time up at the Zoning Board and Planning Board. As far as, and I think there was some good recommendations tonight from the neighbors as far as possibly putting up hedges around the parking lot and making some other changes. Those are all recommendations that the Planning Board will stipulate if and when they approve that project. Do I think looking at that building right now the way it stands today and look at it from the drawings and the renditions and the past experience we have dealing with Nashua housing, do I think that building would look better and will it be better looking for the neighborhood? I do. There'll be 4 people living in there as someone mentioned earlier tonight possibly with 2 cars, so there's 8 cars.

What I would urge and I think we spoke about this at our last meeting is for the neighbors to continue to work with the neighborhood housing and try and develop some agreements before you go to the Zoning Board or the Planning Board. I think there is some compromise that could be accomplished.

With regard to the rest of the community development block grant funds, there is some very, very, very good programs here. As I stated earlier, we have made a number of motions, decision as far as where we are right now and what is introduced on the information that everybody has in front of you. I would like to make one amendment to it and that is New Hampshire Legal Assistance fair housing training. I would like to add \$1,500 to that line item. I appreciate that gentleman coming tonight. If he can help a half a dozen or a dozen individuals to get the loan for the information that they need to move forward with their plans and their dreams, I think that is worthwhile. I'm sure there'll be a motion on Shattuck Street coming up shortly.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO ADD \$1,500 TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE FAIR HOUSING OF TRAINING

MOTION CARRIED

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Cardin

I'd just like to weigh in a little on the Shattuck Street project. Just for clarification, a few times tonight the name of the group has come up as Nashua Housing Authority. This is not a Nashua Housing Authority project. We have heard it a couple of times. Just for clarification, it is Neighborhood Housing Services. It's a totally separate agency. So that being said, I totally understand what the concerns are in the neighborhood.

The purview of this committee is not to take up zoning and planning matters. The purview of this committee is to recommend funding for projects we feel are within the best interest of the community at large, the full community. In the planning for the consolidated plan, this is the largest document that we'll be taking up next week; one of the common themes in here from all the groups that met upstairs up in March was that we need more affordable housing. We get a group in here that has a proven track record of doing good projects. I'm sure that Bridget has been out and shown you the pictures of her projects. I would encourage any of you to work with Neighborhood Housing Services to maybe go in for some of those projects and look at what a good job they really do, and they fit into the neighborhood, they improve the neighborhood. I understand the concerns that these neighbors have at Shattuck Street. I urge you when it comes before Zoning and Planning that's where you need to bring these concerns because their the ones that can either approve or disapprove this project based on whether it meets the zoning and planning and whether or not they want to offer a special exception or a use variance for that project. I do understand your concerns. I have an 80-unit project proposed at the end of my street. Certainly that is a lot more than 4 units. It is concerning when that type of thing goes in a neighborhood. So I totally understand that. We have a track record with an agency who has really done a good job in the community. I would support putting funding in for this agency contingent upon them passing zoning and planning. If they don't, the money doesn't go to them. The money can be reallocated to any other project that this committee deems necessary or deems fit. That's my piece on 2 Shattuck Street.

Alderman Gage

Thank you. I do want to mention that we did have a meeting obviously on April 11. It didn't make the Nashua Telegraph if anybody saw it. It was attended by about 100 people. Board members of Neighborhood Housing; Bridget was there – she made an excellent presentation; Kathy Hersh from Community Development Director, City of Nashua, was there; and she also answered some zoning and planning type questions that came up. We had about a 20 minute presentation by Neighborhood Housing, and about an hour or so of good question and answer period. The folks were able to – they had a chance to ask any questions they wanted, make any comments they wanted. Again, there was approximately 100 people there. I had asked the School Department to set aside 80 chairs figuring we had about 60 the last meeting we had here. They did so and we had folks sitting on the back the staging. It was standing room only in that area. There were also several other members of the Board of Directors along with Mr. Dermer was here.

The job as I see it as the ward alderman is to look at projects and different issues that come up in the ward and try to voice for the residence of the ward that are concerned with an issue. My stand as of right now, after that meeting, after phone calls and discussions with neighbors and other folks that I've met throughout the ward, I will ask that any funding is held here at the committee for the Shattuck Street project until zoning and planning issues are dealt with. I feel that there was I think outside of members of the Board of Directors that evening, there was one individual that I can recall that came up and made comments in favor of this project. As we all know, aldermen-at-large and aldermen here we all get calls regarding very emotional issues in our wards. This was a very emotional issue. A very emotional meeting. The consensus that I have from the majority of folks that I've met throughout the ward and at this meeting, the signature petitions that I have received leave me to take the stand that this project is not something that will be helpful to the neighborhood at this point in time without several zoning and planning issues being sorted out. I will ask this evening that any and all funding for 2 Shattuck Street project stay right where it is here at the committee and not be released until such time as we receive from the Community Development the results of any zoning and planning meetings that come up in the future and that they are received positive agreement through zoning and planning. Then we will have, as the Chairwoman said earlier, I think our fight needs to be there. I would ask that the committee hold the funding here until such time as we are notified that the zoning and planning issues have been worked out and that are sitting in favor of this project. You got a petition received this evening for the committee of 232 signatures. I quickly went through that petition and I found 50 of the 232 were actually Ward 3 residents and about low 20 were actually within 2 to 3 blocks of that location. I know we have city-wide issues, but to me this is a neighborhood issue. Mr. Dermer is close. Folks in that area are close. I think when you have folks from Tinker Road and that type area there in Ward 3 but aren't really closely affected by that, they're not going to be dealing with it daily. I think in my mind I kind of put them in a separate category than the residents petition that have been brought in are all those folks closely affected by this project. Thank you.

Alderman Plamondon

Thank you. I agree with all the comments that have been made thus far. I'm not going to repeat them all. Things like variances and site stipulations, we do have to yield to the purview of the Planning and Zoning Board. I also would support holding in contingency the funds pending approval by those Boards. That to me just makes sense. We are all familiar with Bridget and Neighborhood Housing and they work that they do. Again, not to go over all the points that were made, I definitely agree.

What I wanted to point out or make my suggestion on is the comments made on the direction that we have taken on our CDBG fund allocation. I have now been on this committee since I've been alderman. I was part of that direction as well. I did support and even up until this year support an allocation directed toward services. I would like to see though for the 2007 allocation, if there is one we never really know, but hopefully they will continue, I would like to see much like we do for the 505 account a percentile to go towards bricks and mortar if deemed necessary. At least we would have a percentile, say 10 to 15 percent that this committee would at least look at and if it warrants allocation in that direction, we could entertain that. However, we would still not be losing complete focus on our service directed funds. We have made substantial gains in the service industry since we've taken this focus. However, it has been at the sacrifice of brick and mortar issues. In a City Ward 4 and Ward 3 primarily CDBG approved areas, we have not been looking at brick and mortar issues that the inner city areas, CDBG approved areas, could utilize. Things like parks, just enhancing of safety, and so on. It has been lacking and I would like to see for the 2007 some kind of at least open the door to look at it as an option. That is all I'm saying for our 2007 so that we could entertain those.

Chairman Cardin

Alderman Plamondon, we have used quite a bit of CDBG funds to fix up neighborhood parks. As a matter of fact, Mr. Barry's here I'm sure he could let you probably know what the parks are. Understood.

Alderman Deane

Thank you. I was going to say the same thing. I think we've done a significant amount of work out of our park system with these dollars. I could sit here and probably name off about \$400,000 worth of it. I know where Marc was going though because there is a lot of other things too.

Earlier in the presentation a couple of hours ago the Hunt Board of Trustees came in, Don Marquis I believe spoke to the committee during the public testimony. I just wanted to clarify the statement that he made. I don't know whether I didn't hear the whole thing, but at our last full board meeting, we used money from general contingencies to fund the boiler. The reason behind that was because when the boiler went out to bid, there were other HUD specifications associated with the timeline in which we had to get the boiler in. We had to have in order to maintain the price we had to have him in by May. What we figured when that legislation came through was to fund it out of general contingency so we could hold the price we got on the boiler because it was such a good price and forego as requested the \$22,000 from CDBG for the boiler replacement at the Hunt. So that was done out of general contingency. I think Don had asked that this money be redirected to another portion of the brick repointing, which we have already met all the HUD guidelines for and we have all the documents filled out and they are following that. I don't know what the pleasure of the committee is with that \$22,000 because that boiler issue has been satisfied.

Chairman Cardin

I guess Alderman Deane the money the \$22,000 that was used for the boiler that you had in contingency would have been used to remediate some of the water problems there?

Alderman Deane

It came out of general contingency out of this building.

Chairman Cardin

Oh, out of our general contingency.

Alderman Deane

Right.

Chairman Cardin

Gotcha. Oh, okay. I thought you meant out of...

Alderman Deane

No when he had mentioned that I didn't want – I wanted to address that because he said contingency and I'm thinking wait a minute that's a big word with so many accounts because it can be almost anywhere. I wanted to make sure that it was identified properly. What we voted on here, it was a couple of weeks ago...

Chairman Cardin

That wasn't CDBG contingency, that was for the operating budget contingency?

Alderman Deane

Correct.

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Chairman Cardin

Okay. Thank you.

Alderman Deane

So I didn't know what the Board wanted to do with the balance of the \$22,000. We had suggested maybe continuing some repointing work, but that is a decision that has to be made by this committee.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Alderman Deane.

Alderman Lozeau

Yes. Not to harp on the Shattuck Street thing, but one thing that's clear is I think probably all of us have driven that site and looked at that site. Taking a little bit of what Alderman McCarthy said at the beginning of the meeting, I would ask the ward alderman how he feels about asking for some funding for that Shattuck Street playground. I would support something going towards that Shattuck Street playground because it's not a playground, it is a sandpit. I think a neighborhood deserves a nice playground. I would support that if you would like to make that motion Alderman Gage.

Chairman Cardin

Alderman Lozeau, there is money in – we did

Alderman Lozeau

I don't believe there was money allocated for that playground.

Chairman Cardin

Shattuck Street playground – one time. Oh, you're correct.

Alderman Tollner

I thought, and I don't want to speak for John Parolin, but when he was here, I thought he stated that the Park Rec. Advisory Committee would look into doing work on the Shattuck Street playground.

Chairman Cardin

John, can you join us up here at a microphone please.

John Barry

My name is John Barry. I'm with the Parks and Recreation Department. I believe John mentioned Palm Street and he said we're doing work in a lot of different parks. Initially we looked at Shattuck Street, but where there is some question as to what the use of the facility is going to be we didn't pursue it after we applied for the initial grant money.

Chairman Cardin

I didn't know there was any question as to what that was going to be. Can you enlighten me?

John Barry

Well actually I can't. I didn't pay much attention to it when I saw it drawn.

Alderman Tollner

Let me follow up for a second. John the Park Rec. Department has worked on number of parks in unison with the neighborhoods to straighten them up, clean them up, renovate them – maybe not totally like we have in other parks, but I think that the Park Rec. Department would be willing to work with Bridget's people if this project was to go through and work with the neighborhood to see what they would like to have done at that park – spruce it up and make it better than it is right now.

John Barry

Certain. Anything would be better than it is right now. Honestly. The neighborhood does need a nice park in that area. Both sides of the school actually have playground equipment on it. We've seen it used frequently – both sides.

Alderman Tollner

Bridget, would you be willing to sit down with the Park Rec. Department and work together with them.

Bridget

Very definitely. We've worked with them (inaudible – not speaking into microphone).

Alderman Gage

I met with Nick Caggiano a couple of weeks ago and June Caron and talked about the park. They were actually – when I looked Nick was actually looking at some equipment for it at the time. He also said that they would need – they had some grant money from somewhere he had mentioned but there would be very little money to do that with the park. He was going to get back to me and we've both been very busy and haven't had a chance to touch base. I will call him in the morning.

Chairman Cardin

So were you comfortable with the proposal that he had money enough to fix this park?

Alderman Gage

The impression I got was that they could get money from somewhere, but then again that was a couple of weeks ago before we all got dumped on the budget project. Who knows what will happen right now.

Chairman Cardin

But you'll follow up with him?

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Alderman Gage

Yes. Will we be able to, if I could Madam Chairman, when I follow up with him in the morning if he says that they could use a little bit of funding here for this project, the only time that we can

do anything with this would be at the full board after this?

Chairman Cardin

We have another meeting on Monday night if we don't vote to send this to the full Board tonight we could certainly do it on Monday.

Alderman Gage

Okay.

Chairman Cardin

We do have a Human Affairs meeting – we have a public hearing on the consolidated plan on Monday night and then a regular Human Affairs meeting after that. Did you want to add something Paul? You look like you wanted to add something.

Paul Newman

Just to suggest that since the resolution has been amended to include the consolidated plan, that hearing has yet to be held. I suppose you want to hold the entire resolution until that is completed.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you.

Alderman Deane

Thank you. I'm surprised Alderman Tollner didn't pick up on this, but being a member of the Finance Committee and all and being challenged to a game of triple shootout. The Park Department through the Community Health and operation bright side funds by Anheuser Busch. \$1,900 which includes a triple shootout and one tether ball unit for Shattuck Street. I cannot remember the exact amount of money that June Caron said was left in that account. I don't think it was anywhere in the vicinity of \$30,000. I think this totaled up about \$8 or \$9,000 for the four different areas – the Boys and Girls Club, Girls, Inc., PAL, and Shattuck Street. I believe, Alderman Gage, that's what Nick was talking to you about. I think...

Alderman Gage

I remember the Budweiser.

Alderman Deane

Anheuser Busch gives the City I believe around \$5,000 a year. I don't know what the balance of the account is, but that area I believe they have a small committee that goes out and views things and then they (inaudible) on it and what not. There is some people in the City that are on it. They go out and view recommendations and then they bring it to the Finance Committee.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Alderman Deane.

Alderman Lozeau

Thanks for all the input regarding Shattuck Street. I think that neighborhood deserves a little bit of improvement, and I think this whole thing brought it all to light. I'd like to see those neighbors get something out of this. Thank you.

Alderman Gage

I agree.

Chairman Cardin

I think we agree that that should happen.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO REDUCE THE REQUEST FROM \$50,000 TO \$25,500 CONTINGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE ZONING BOARD AND PLANNING BOARD. IF NOT, THOSE FUNDS AS STATED EARLIER WILL REVERT BACK TO THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MONEY

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

I just had a concern with that motion. I think somewhere Alderman Tollner you should put in there and any other necessary permitting or approvals required.

Alderman Tollner

That's fine.

-

Alderman Deane

That way it covers – they might have to do something nobody is really aware of quite yet.

Alderman Tollner

All right. I'll add that to the motion.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO REDUCE THE REQUEST FROM \$50,000 TO \$25,500 CONTINGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE ZONING BOARD AND PLANNING BOARD AND ANY OTHER PERMITTING APPROVAL AS NECESSARY FOR THE PROJECT. IF NOT, THOSE FUNDS AS STATED EARLIER WILL REVERT BACK TO THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MONEY

MOTION CARRIED

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Gage

Just a question. Shouldn't we just hold it as amended or just hold it.

Alderman Tollner

The original motion that I made about 25 minutes ago was to amend it by adding the following language in the consolidated plan remember. We never voted on that because before you vote on that you need to amend, which we did, but you need to go back and approve the motion that was originally stated before we made the amendments. That would be the proper thing to do.

Alderman Lozeau

Would that still make it open for amendments at a later date?

Alderman Tollner

Yes.

Chairman Cardin

At Monday's meeting.

Alderman Tollner

Absolutely, at Monday's meeting.

Chairman Cardin

I'd like to get this passed by Monday's meeting. I think we need to because everything has to go.

Alderman Lozeau

Is it time sensitive if I may?

Paul Newman

We have to submit this to HUD by May 15th. So it has to be before...

Alderman Tollner

It has to be approved by the full Board and then documented.

Chairman Cardin

We had another request for HOME funds. I don't remember what we did with those funds at our last meeting. There was \$300,000 requested by Neighborhood Housing Services from the HOME fund.

Alderman Gage

Madam Chairman. I believe we put that funding in contingency also.

Chairman Cardin

Paul, do you have any insight for us as to what we did with that funding at our last meeting? Klaas might be able to help us out.

Paul Newman

Yes. From the proposal list, you had the proposals from Nashua Pastoral Care Center, which is in the resolution; proposal from Neighborhood Housing Services, which effectively is yet to be

funded and is item #4 in the HOME part of the resolution – affordable family rental housing \$256,815.

Alderman Lozeau

That's a contingency?

Paul Newman

Well it's a general category for affordable housing at such time as you approve the funding of a specific one. It's just uncommitted HOME funds.

Alderman Tollner

Paul, I'm sorry. Item #4, is that the UPD HOME fund program administration or is that – when you said #4, are you talking about the resolution?

Paul Newman

There was a request by Neighborhood Housing Services – a total of \$300,000 for Shattuck Street of which \$83,103 was under the category of Community Housing Development Organization. That was item #3.

Alderman Tollner

I'm sorry for \$83,103?

Paul Newman

Yes. That is in the resolution but with an unspecified project. It is the required 15 percent set aside – HUD's requirement. The program requirement that 15 percent be set aside for housing development by a community housing development organization, which the NHS is. Then the remainder of the \$300,000 would have come from line #4 – affordable family rental housing. Not all of that money, but \$216,897 – totaling between those two \$300,000.

Alderman Tollner

I guess what would be the appropriate motion for the committee to make to accomplish what Alderman Cardin was getting at?

Chairman Cardin

I would think it would be the same type of motion that we made with the other funding. We could specify it for them contingent upon zoning and planning approval if that's the committees' pleasure.

Paul Newman

To specify that the funds under line #3 – community housing development organization would be for development of 2 Shattuck Street by Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Nashua Inc. subject to those same conditions.

Chairman Cardin

Zoning, planning, and other permitting approval?

Paul Newman

Right.

Chairman Cardin

Motion to allocate it to that project based on zoning, planning, and other permitted approval?

Alderman Gage

Correct. So that it stays outside...

-

Chairman Cardin

Right. It won't go anywhere because it won't have the approval to spend the money until it goes through zoning, planning, and all that.

Alderman Gage

Correct.

Alderman Lozeau

Madam Chair. Why isn't it okay the way it is right now? You can't identify contingent?

Chairman Cardin

Yes you can. I think you can. The problem is Alderman Lozeau that you know yourself that when the City buys into a project, a lot of these projects we have on here and Director Hersh was saying the same thing tonight. When the City shows even the smallest or any kind of investment in a project, and when you think about the Shattuck Street project being \$1.5 million, these monies are what leverage the rest of that money. If we say we're just going to put it in a lump sum somewhere and not commit it to that project, it doesn't leverage those other funds. The funders don't look at the City buying into this project. That would be my recommendation. If the project doesn't go forward with zoning and planning, the money doesn't go anywhere. The money stays there and gets reallocated to another project.

Alderman Lozeau

There's no risk of losing it back to the fence? That's my concern.

Paul Newman

Klaas can speak to that. There is a time limit.

Klaas Nijhaus

Klaas Nijhaus, Deputy Manager of Urban Programs. HUD HOME funds coming to the City need to be allocated to a project within two years of their award to the what's called the participating jurisdiction, which the City has. So there is a time constraint. These funds will become subject to that time constraint over the next year.

Alderman Deane

But even if the fund were put into contingency and you approved them contingent upon zoning, planning, and other necessary approvals I believe a separate resolution would have to come through identifying these again. Isn't that correct?

-

Chairman Cardin

No. We just don't release the funds until we get communications that all those approvals have been met. Is that right?

Alderman Deane

It's kind of a legal question. I don't know. I'd ask Legal about that though just to be on the safe side.

Chairman Cardin

Why, we've done that in the past.

Alderman Lozeau

My concern is what happens if it takes a year to get through planning and zoning and we lose the funds?

Klaas Nijhaus

We need to commit within two years to a particular project. We need to expend the funds within five years of receiving the project. I'm sorry I

Chairman Cardin

Thank you. So there wouldn't be a risk. If it takes 5 years there's a problem. The poor neighborhood, they're not going to like that I'll tell you. Okay.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN GAGE TO ALLOCATED ON LINE 3 OF THE RESOLUTION COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION WITH SPECIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES TO \$83,103; AND ON LINE 4 TO SPECIFY TO NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES \$216,897 AS STATED CONTINGENT UPON ZONING AND PLANNING APPROVALS AND OTHER PERMITS BEFORE FUNDS COULD BE RELEASED

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Maybe I'm not understanding the language in the resolution. It says specific projects shall be authorized by further resolution.

Chairman Cardin

If they are not specified, Alderman Deane. If there is money left in that line item, if there is money left – it's not the same as the CDBG funds where we spend it all up front.

Alderman Deane

That's where I was stumbling.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Alderman Deane.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO HOLD R-05-196, AS AMENDED, IN COMMITTEE BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE AND THAT THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN OF THE CITY OF NASHUA 2005/2010 BE ADOPTED BY REFERENCE. THE PLAN SHALL BE ON FILE FOR THE INSPECTION OF THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 229 MAIN STREET, CITY HALL, NASHUA, NH

...end of Tape 1, side A...

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO HOLD R-05-196, AS AMENDED, IN COMMITTEE

ON THE QUESTION

Paul Newman

Correct me if I'm wrong, was there anything ever actually done with the Hunt Building \$22,000 to change the description from the boiler to anything else or to whatever? I know there was a lot of discussion, but I don't recall that there was actually...

Chairman Cardin

What's the committee's pleasure? Well we spent an extra \$1,500 that we didn't have – not that we didn't have but that would come out of contingency. We didn't have when we started this tonight. What's the pleasure of the committee?

Alderman Lozeau

Does it really have to be amended just because of the word "boiler"?

Chairman Cardin

I believe so.

Alderman Lozeau

It says Hunt Building Trustees 6 Main Street renovations – boiler. Can we just change – brick?

-

Paul Newman

You could eliminate the word "boiler" in the resolution, and it would have been renovations at 6 Main Street.

Chairman Cardin

You don't want to specify it for what purpose?

Alderman Gage

I'll actually leave it to Alderman Lozeau if he is going to make that motion.

Alderman Lozeau

Is a motion proper for that?

Chairman Cardin

Certainly.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOZEAU TO REMOVE THE WORD "BOILER" FROM THE DESCRIPTION OF THE HUNT BUILDING TRUSTEE, 6 MAIN STREET, ELIMINATE THE WORD "BOILER"

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Tollner

What I would like to do if I could, ask Alderman Lozeau just prior to his motion I'd like to amend R-05-196 to eliminate the word "boiler". So you need to amend it.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOZEAU TO AMEND R-05-196 BY REMOVING THE WORD "BOILER" FROM THE HUNT BUILDING RENOVATIONS LINE ITEM FOR \$22,000

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lozeau

The reason I make that motion is as this brick work proceeds, there may be a fixture or something that is in the way and I don't want to change the name of boiler, to brick, to a light fixture. I think it's all going for the same common good.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Alderman Lozeau.

-

Alderman Deane

Am I hearing this right that this committee is going to go over and remove the old boiler? I didn't know. That's the way I was kind of reading it.

Chairman Cardin

Thanks for the offer Alderman Deane. I think we'll pass.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO HOLD R-05-196, AS AMENDED, IN COMMITTEE

MOTION CARRIED

R-05-198

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter

Alderman Lori Cardin

Alderman Marc W. Plamondon

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$9,394.14 FROM RIVIER
COLLEGE INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT 352-6515 FOR LANDSCAPING AND**

IRRIGATION AT THE SOUTH MAIN STREET ROUNDABOUT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARDIN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

I'm just glad that this time they put no light fixtures in this roundabout. It looks nice. I saw the sprinklers on this afternoon. Thank you.

Alderman Lozeau

I'd just like some assurances from Park and Recreation that the funds will not be spent on any light fixtures on this roundabout.

Chairman Cardin

Mr. Barry is here if you'd like to address him directly.

John Barry

I'm very comfortable in saying you won't see a light there.

MOTION CARRIED

-
NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

HELD IN COMMITTEE

-
From: Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department

Re: Plus Company and Area Agency HOME Allocations

- Held in Committee 10/20/04

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE R-05-180

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Gage

Could I ask the maker of the motion his purpose?

Alderman Tollner

Yes. Legislation went in a number of weeks ago to move the funds and what I was going to do is after we take it from the table I was going to put the same requirements in contingency on to match what we just approved about 10 minutes ago.

Alderman Gage

To put it back...

Alderman Tollner

Well it's going to be held pending – just like we did before.

MOTION CARRIED

R-05-180

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Alderman Lori Cardin

**AMENDING THE USE OF FUNDING BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES
OF GREATER NASHUA IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2003 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-05-180 CONTINGENT
UPON NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING GETTING APPROVAL FROM ZONING, PLANNING,
AND RECEIVING ANY OTHER PERMITTING AND APPROVAL**

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION

-
ADJOURNMENT

-
**MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Committee Clerk