



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 25, 2014  
Council Session (Corrected)

## Item E-4

### Public Hearing on Citizen Participation Plan Revision

Staff Contact: Jaye Monter, Finance Director

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Tonja Carey, Community Development Specialist  
**Meeting:** March 25, 2014  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Citizen Participation Plan Revision  
**Item #'s:** E-4 & G-9  
**Presenter(s):** Jaye Monter, Finance Director

## **Background**

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED) required that all communities that receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds adopt a Citizen Participation Plan. This plan sets forth how citizens, especially lower income and/or disabled persons, are to be provided with opportunities to participate in the planning, implementation and assessment of the CDBG programs.

The last update to the Citizen Participation Plan was on August 25, 1997. The NDED has changed the template and encouraged all communities to adopt the updated version.

## **Discussion**

At this time it is requested that Council approve adopting the updated Citizen Participation Plan.

## **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve the Citizen Participation Plan
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

## **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the Citizen Participation Plan.

## **Sample Motion**

Move to approve the Citizen Participation Plan and authorize the Mayor to sign all related documents.

# Citizen Participation Plan

## City of Grand Island, Nebraska

### A. Participation by Citizens

All citizens, including low- and moderate-income citizens, shall be requested and encouraged to participate in the assessment of community issues, problems and needs; the identification of potential solutions; and priority to such issues, problems and needs, as follows:

1. All citizens shall be periodically requested to complete a community needs survey to identify community and neighborhood issues, problems and needs.
2. All citizens shall be notified by publication and posting of all meetings to discuss the identified needs, potential solutions and solution priorities.
3. All citizens, particularly low and moderate-income citizens, shall be afforded the opportunity to serve on various community improvement task forces established by the City Of Grand Island.

### B. Access to Meetings, Information and Records

Notice of public meetings conducted by the City Of Grand Island shall be published and posted at least 5 days prior to such meetings.

Agendas of all such meetings shall be available at the Grand Island City Hall, 100 East First Street, for public inspection.

All meetings where CDBG projects or applications are to be discussed shall be published and posted at least 5 days prior to such meetings and all information and records concerning such CDBG projects or applications shall be available for public inspection at the Grand Island City Hall, 100 East First Street.

All meetings will be held at a time and location convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries which will be accessible to all citizens. The building and site will also be accessible to persons with disabilities.

### C. Specific CDBG Project Information

All citizens shall be provided with information regarding specific CDBG projects through public meetings and publication of notices which provide all pertinent information regarding any CDBG project including, but not limited to:

1. The amount of CDBG funds expected to be made available to the City Of Grand Island for the current fiscal year, including CDBG funds and anticipated program income;
2. The specific range of activities that may be undertaken with CDBG funds;
3. The estimated amount of CDBG funds to be used for activities that will meet the national objective of benefit to low-and moderate-income persons, and;
4. A description of any proposed CDBG funded activities that are likely to result in displacement of persons along with the City Of Grand Island's anti-displacement and relocation plans.

### D. Provisions for Technical Assistance to Citizens

The Community Development Administrator shall maintain current information of available resources for community improvement efforts and CDBG programs available and provide such information upon request by any citizen or group representing any citizen or group of citizens and the Community Development Administrator shall provide assistance in developing proposals to address issues, problems and needs identified by such citizen or citizens.

### E. Public Hearing on CDBG Activities

The City Of Grand Island shall enact a minimum of two (2) public meetings or hearings to be conducted with regard to any CDBG application. At least one meeting or hearing shall be conducted prior to the submission of any such application and a second public hearing shall be held near the completion of any CDBG funded activity to obtain citizen input, comments or opinions with regard to such application(s) and to program or project performance.

The Community Development Administrator shall act as the contact person for all questions, comments or concerns expressed by any citizen with regard to any CDBG program or project and shall forward any such questions, comments or concerns to the City Of Grand Island at the next regular meeting of the City Of Grand Island immediately following expression of such questions, comments or concerns. The Community Development Administrator shall also be responsible for transmitting the City Of Grand Island's response to any such question, comment or concerns to the citizen or citizens expressing the same.

### F. Needs of Non-English Speaking Citizens

The City Of Grand Island shall conduct the public hearings in a manner to meet the needs of non-English speaking residents where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can reasonably be expected to participate, the City Clerk shall arrange for oral or written translation of information regarding any CDBG program, application or project upon request by such non-English speaking persons or representatives of such persons.

**(updated 01/30/2014)**

**G. Compliance/Grievance Procedures**

The Community Development Administrator shall post a notice at the City Hall, 100 East First Street that provides name, telephone number, address and office hours of the City Of Grand Island for citizens who wish to file a complaint or grievance regarding any CDBG program, project or application.

Individuals wishing to submit a complaint or file a grievance concerning activities, of or application for, CDBG funds may submit a written complaint or grievance to the Community Development Administrator.

The Community Development Administrator shall present such complaint or grievance to the City Council at the next regular meeting of the City Of Grand Island, where it be reviewed by the Board members. The individual submitting such complaint or grievance shall be notified of such meeting and shall be given the opportunity to make further comments at such meeting. The City Of Grand Island. shall issue a written response to any complaint or grievance within fifteen (15) days following the meeting at which a response is formulated. Such response shall be mailed to the individual citizen(s) submitting the complaint or grievance by the Community Development Administrator to the last known address of said citizen(s).

In the event that the nature of the complaint or grievance is determined to be a matter requiring immediate action, a special meeting of the City Of Grand Island shall be called to review the matter within ten (10) days of receipt of such complaint or grievance.

**H. Adoption**

This Citizen Participation Plan is hereby adopted by action of the City Council of Grand Island, Nebraska.

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Jay Vavricek, Mayor

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Attest: RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

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Date