

CDBG PUBLIC HEARING
Borough of Edinboro
September 13, 2021

Welcome to the Public Hearing:

Mayor Gast opened the public hearing at 6:17 PM. Council members present were Mary Ann Horne, Aaron Gast, Mark Eisert, and Fred Langill. Absent were Pat Davis, Jim Kiley, and Alyssa Dobson. Also present were Interim Manager Jason Spangenberg, Solicitor Tim Wachter, and Joe Berdis of Erie County Planning. The meeting was turned over to Joe Berdis.

Purpose of Hearing:

This public hearing is the second and final public hearing regarding the Borough's FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. Notice of hearing appeared in the Erie Times News on September 1, 2021 as well as posted on the Borough's website. No comments were received prior to this hearing. The primary purpose of this hearing is to identify the activities the Borough proposes to undertake with its FY 2021 CDBG allocation and to take comments.

Background Information:

The Borough is entitled to receive an annual allocation of CDBG funds from the PA DCED pursuant to PA Act 179 of 1984. Since 1985 the Borough has received approximately \$4.7 million in funding. The FY 2021 allocation of \$119,694 is an increase of \$1,859 from FY 2020. A portion of the allocation will be set aside for administration which will be provided by County Planning. The submission deadline for the application to DCED requesting the funding is October 28.

Proposed Activities:

Based upon comments from the first hearing and subsequent discussions with municipal officials, the Borough proposes to undertake the following activities with its FY 2021 allocation:

- \$12,000 or 10% of the allocation will be set aside for Program Administration to be provided by County Planning. Of note, DCED allows up to 18% for administration.
- \$107,694 to provide ADA accessibility improvements at Nature's Outlet Park and Pat Crawford Beach. At Nature's Outlet, a new, accessible concrete sidewalk will be constructed from the street along the top of the lake bluff to new concrete seating areas, which will be sufficiently sized and include benches to allow inclusive seating for persons with disabilities. A railing will be constructed to restrict access to the steep bluff for safety and to minimize erosion. A designated parking space, meeting ADA guidelines, will be provided within the existing parking lot across the street. Appropriate curb ramps and a crosswalk will be installed to provide an

accessible route to the park area. At Pat Crawford Beach, an accessible concrete walkway will be constructed, connecting the fishing dock to the existing paved walkway system. The new walkway will also connect to a bench which is currently not accessible. To remove the barrier to the floating fishing dock, a new gangway ramp will be installed at the proper slope, including handrails. The landslide of the gangway will connect to the accessible walkway via a new concrete bulkhead wall on the lakeshore.

Construction costs are estimated at \$113,025 which would utilize all of the Borough's FY 2021 CDBG monies. Joe Berdis noted that the railing at Nature's Outlet may have an issue being approved as primarily benefitting the handicapped, but he will submit it for approval. Council briefly discussed the railing.

Three-Year Plan:

The short-term plan is to complete the above-mentioned parks project. The long-term plan is to provide funding for LMI owner-occupied single-family housing. Interim Manager Spangenberg stated that he would explore other long-term project options before the first FY2022 hearing next summer.

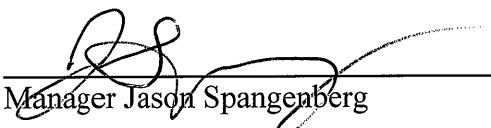
Comments/Questions:

Joe Berdis stated that the FY2019 CDBG project is still in process, as the contractor is awaiting supplies to install lights at Thompson Park. He also noted that \$39,360.51 in FY2020 funds still needs to be allocated to a project. Mayor Gast asked if there is an expiration period for the CDBG money, and Mr. Berdis replied that it is three years. Council briefly discussed the potential impact of the 2020 Census figures on the CDBG program.

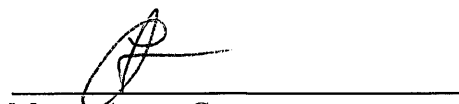
Adjournment:

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

ATTEST:



Manager Jason Spangenberg



Mayor Aaron Gast