

-----Original Message-----

From: Beth Melofchik <tankmadel@yahoo.com>

To: dianemahon@verizon.net <dianemahon@verizon.net>; dmahon@town.arlington.ma.us <dmahon@town.arlington.ma.us>

Cc: JO ANNE PRESTON <ja-preston@comcast.net>; Elizabeth Dray <elizabethdray7@gmail.com>; freidy@town.arlington.ma.us <freidy@town.arlington.ma.us>; refdesk@world.std.com <refdesk@world.std.com>; Jordan Weinstein <jordan3weinstein@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 27, 2020 3:52 pm

Subject: Fw: Comments CDBG HUD Funds, 1 yr Annual Action Plan

Diane Mahon, Chair
Select Board, Arlington MA

Dear Ms. Mahon,

Curiously absent from materials shared for tonight's Select Board discussion of the CDBG grant application is my letter below. I would respectfully request answers to the questions raised in the letter below. I did attend the public meeting chaired by Ms. Zwirko, as well as the prior 2 public subcommittee meetings moderated by the CDBG program officer of a short tenure.

As you are aware I was unable to connect to the recent Zoom meeting moderated by Ms. Raitt. I hope my letter below was shared and discussed publicly.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Beth Melofchik

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Beth Melofchik <tankmadel@yahoo.com>
To: Erin Zwirko <ezwirko@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: JO ANNE PRESTON <ja-preston@comcast.net>; Patricia Worden
<pbworden@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020, 3:14:34 PM EDT
Subject: Comments CDBG HUD Funds, 1 yr Annual Action Plan

Town of Arlington, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476
attn: Erin Zwirko.

Dear Ms. Zwirko,

Herewith my comments on the \$125,000 request from CDBG funds for Whittemore Park Revitalization Project Phase II.

This application was not discussed in public before the subcommittee, I know I attended both public meetings along with two others.

Is the granite retaining wall as described in the application also the rear stairway or is it the amphitheater stairway? Is it accessible to all? I saw no statement from the Disability Commission on this project. It stretches credulity to imagine monies from an application placed in the context of ADA would center on a project with a main design feature of a granite amphitheater stairway which is not accessible to all.
Is the garden fully accessible?

I have doubts that the process met the bar for transparency and public participation as there was no public discussion of the merits of the application for \$125,000 for Phase II of the Whittemore Park Revitalization Project. What are the \$125,000 monies for specifically? Again, this was not discussed, the needs of the project in the context of the served community not reviewed in either of the 2 public fora before the CDBG SubCommittee.

I posit that the requirements listed below are not met in this Whittemore Park Revitalization Project Phase II application and the requirements for community outreach and public discussion were not met:

"The Town of Arlington is in the process of completing a 5-Year Consolidated Plan and 1-Year Annual Action Plan of for the Town's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In order to receive CDBG funds, the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan must be consistent with the primary objective of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, which is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income, and include stakeholder consultation."

This would appear to be a request for federal monies to be spent not within the parameters of the program. Does an amphitheater stairway facing the salon to the rear of the Jefferson Cutter House in Whittemore Park serve the objectives of CDBG HUD programming? How would this serve low and moderate income communities? And, the request was placed in the context of ADA requirements. Hard to understand this, are the amphitheater stairs ADA compliant themselves allowing full accessibility? Are there ramps to each level?

Can the Town Manager and the Director of Planning please explain why there was no public discussion of the Whittemore Park Revitalization Project Phase II application before the CDBG Subcommittee in public. Thank you.

Beth Melofchik
Russell Street

Town Meeting Member