

**MAINE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**General Meeting**  
**Friday, April 25, 2008**

The Maine Community Development Association held a joint OCD/MCDA meeting at the Lucerne Inn on Friday, April 25, 2008 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Please see the attached sign-in sheet for members present.

1. CALL TO ORDER: T. Levesque called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
2. REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 8, 2008 MEETING MINUTES: Moved by M. Walton and seconded by S. Dyer to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
3. TREASURER’S REPORT: As reported by R. Harriman:

Revenues – Month of April, 2008	\$550.00
Year-To-Date Revenues	\$8,554.00
Expenditures – Month of April, 2008	\$1,507.00
Year-To-Date Expenditures	\$2,009.00
Net Income	\$6,545.00
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$7,338.00</b>

T. Levesque reported the following additional revenues to be received:

\$1,100 to \$1,200	To cover booth rental fee at MMA Convention
\$1,000	For pass-thru to sponsor Maine Downtown Center. Anticipated expenditure for annual Maine Downtown Center meeting is \$750; remaining \$250 for use by MCDA
\$2,000	To cover cost of attendance at COSCDA Conference at Harrisburg, VA
\$1,500	To sponsor regional COSCDA Conference at Portsmouth, NH on 4/30/08 to 5/2/08
<b>Total: \$5,600 to \$5,700</b>	

Moved by P. Bernier and seconded by D. Walton to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CORRESPONDENCE: President Levesque circulated various magazines and correspondence for review by the membership.
5. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:
  - ▶ Professional Development: Chairman J. Gulnac is working with the Maine Association of Planners, who is not affiliates of MMA, to do a joint meeting on professional ethics. The workshop would be part of continuing education for the organization and count towards certification for AICP. Joint meetings such as these would help MCDA increase visibility with the State.
  - ▶ Membership: Chairman Dyer reported that to date there are 29 paid members. Reminders were sent out last week as well as the membership cards. In an attempt to

increase membership, the Town Manager's list serve will be used to advertise the benefits of becoming a member of MCDA. S. Dyer again urged all members to participate in the Plus One campaign.

- ▶ Financial: R. Harriman reminded all non-paying members to pay their renewal fees. Some communities stated they were never mailed a renewal notice and therefore dues were not paid. MMA's bookkeeping system was also discussed. The current system does not generate reports on an as-needed basis.
- ▶ Communication: Chairwoman Walton reported that she is still waiting for members to submit success stories, photos, and various updates so that she can update the website. The MCDA display is also in great need of update. Moved by J. Gulnac and seconded by S. Dyer to allow up to \$1,000 for the updates. Motion passed unanimously. J. Theriault asked that members submit articles for the newsletter. It is important to cover all of the State of Maine when producing the newsletter; therefore, members should submit articles for inclusion.
- ▶ Advocacy: Chairman Smith reported that an ad hoc committee had recently put together a booklet of all cooperatives in Maine. The Maine State Housing Authority currently has programs that the cooperatives could tap into. He reported that the Genesis Fund has a program that deals with mobile home parks, which is quite successful in neighboring New Hampshire.

6. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED 2009 PROGRAM STATEMENT: M. Baran briefed MCDA members on the following:

- ✘ Maine Riverfront Community Development Program: M. Baran is meeting on Monday, April 28 with Commissioners of Department of Conservation, Department of Economic and Community Development, State Planning Office and four other individuals that serve on the decision-making panel for the State. It is anticipated that grant packages will be mailed out in June.
- ✘ Maine Investment Trust Fund: The MITF has a \$1.5 million budget. Approximately 35 of 74 service center communities will participate in this program. The application due date is Friday, May 9, 2008.

Discussion on the proposed 2009 CDBG program statement included the following topics:

- Increase the housing assistance budget and decrease the home repair network budget – Give communities back the opportunity to assist the neediest and the ability to have a great say. CDBG always encourages citizen participation in its programs; CAP agencies do not always ask for or discuss priorities with the communities.
- If the President's budget of \$9.8 million is approved, cut all programs proportionately across the board.
- Send a letter to OCD commenting that the economic programs have become too political.

- ☑ The CDBG program is becoming more of an economic development program than community development. The program needs to go back to what it was designed for, which is housing assistance and public facility/infrastructure.
- ☑ There are too many set-asides; i.e. SBDC Technical Assistance, Home Repair Network, Maine Downtown Center. If allowed, we can expect to see more requests from other organizations next year.

Moved by D. Lapointe and seconded by P. Bernier to submit one letter expressing MCDA's concern regarding the political pressures on the economic development programs and that should the President's budget be adopted that OCD make cuts to all programs proportionately across the board. Additionally, should more money be received than anticipated for 2009, funds should be allocated to housing first and then to public facility/infrastructure programs. The motion passed unanimously.

Moved by M. Walton and seconded by P. Bernier to submit a second letter stating MCDA is opposed to set-aside funds. Motion passed. Two members were opposed.

Motion made by G. Chase to send a letter of thanks to the staff at OCD for their support and professionalism; seconded by J. Gulnac. Motion passed with a notation that the governor and commissioner be copied on the letter.

Motion by M. Walton to present a lifetime achievement award to Orman Whitcomb; seconded by P. Bernier. The vote was unanimously in favor. This award will be presented at CDBG Appreciation Day.

Motion by R. Harriman to remove economic development grants to businesses and send letter emphasizing patient capital; seconded by J. Gulnac. Motion passed.

7. DISCUSSION ON JUNE 6, 2008 MEETING IN FORT FAIRFIELD: President Levesque reported that this date is in conflict with the Maine Downtown Center's annual conference being held in Biddeford. He will contact Diana Huot of HUD to try to reschedule the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. A rescheduling date of June 13<sup>th</sup> was proposed. T. Levesque will be contacting the membership.

8. REPORT ON MMA CONVENTION PLANS: Possible topics of discussion included:

- |                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Historic Preservation Tax Credit | 5) Success Stories        |
| 2) New Market Tax Credit            | 6) Housing TIF            |
| 3) CDBG Implementation Workshop     | 7) Development Fund rules |
| 4) ALPHA ONE                        |                           |

R. Lynch, S. Dyer, and A. Smith will work with J. Gulnac on choosing a topic.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Brochure: T. Levesque would like to have picture updated (Picture of Lynn Paul receiving award).
- COSCD A/OCD Liaison for 2008: Jim Gulnac will attend the COSCD A annual conference and will be the liaison for MCDA/OCD for the year.

Moved by M. Walton to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:11 a.m.

Submitted by:

Joella R. Theriault  
Secretary