Staff introduces petition; CCHC presents; the Board asks CCHC questions; the Chair says “The public comment is now open. If you would like to speak, please raise your hand, state your name and address for the record and state your piece.” After public comment, the Chair will ask Staff if any written comments were received prior to the meeting. Staff presents report, noting any changes as a result of discussion or public testimony; If necessary, the Board asks staff questions; the Chair asks “Are there any comments or topics of discussion from Board members?”; after limited Board discussion, the Chair calls for a motion and second on a finding of no conflict with the general policies within the Comprehensive Plan; after deliberation that explains the rationale of the Board’s finding in accordance with rules, the Chair calls for a vote; after a successful vote, the Chair announces vote.

City of Newport
Department of Planning and Economic Development
Staff Report to the Planning Board

Review of Comprehensive Plan, General Policies

Meeting: June 22, 2020
Applicant: City of Newport
Presenter: Church Community Housing Corporation
Petition: Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Application

The City of Newport is submitting a Community Development Block Grant application for Project Year 19 funding. As part of the City’s annual application process, the Planning Board is required to certify that it has reviewed the proposed activities, been given the opportunity to comment on them, and that to the best of their knowledge, the activities “are not in conflict with the general policies set forth in the Comprehensive Community Plan.”

The Application includes the seven (7) proposals listed below, and Staff have provided the following components of the Comprehensive Plan for review in order for the Board to determine that the projects do not conflict with the General Policies of the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Newport.

The proposed activities are as follows:

1. Public Facility: Provide funding for capital improvements to the Florence Gray Center located at 1 York St.
   Amount: $300,000

2. Public Facility: Provide funding for window replacement at the Boys and Girls Club located at 95 Church St.
   Amount: $80,000

3. Public Facility: Provide funding for Merton Rd for repairs and improvements.
   Amount: $500,000
4. Public Facility: Provide funding for upgrades to the playground on Kingston Avenue.
   Amount: $100,000

5. Public Services: Provide funding to support the McKinney Shelter’s provision of services to its homeless client residents.
   Amount: $180,000

6. Public Services: Provide funding to support EBCAPs dental program offered to residents of Newport County.
   Amount: $35,000

7. Public Services: Provide funding for the Community Housing Resource Board/Housing Hotline of Newport County to continue to provide emergency housing of homeless persons in motels when no other options are available. The CHRB also provides housing counseling, referral services, and education and outreach to affirmatively further Fair Housing in Newport County.
   Amount: $80,000

8. City Administration
   Amount: $187,500

**Comprehensive Plan**

**Review of Goals and Policies**

The policies of the Comprehensive Plan are organized around goals and policies within the required Comprehensive Plan elements. Staff has presented relevant goals and policies for each of the proposed activities for the Board’s review.

1. **Public Facility: Provide funding for capital improvements to the Florence Gray Center located at 1 York St.**

   Relevant goals and policies for this activity includes
   
   **Goals**
   ED-1, To develop a robust and diverse economy, providing suitable employment opportunities for residents and a stable tax base;
   CFS-1, To provide a full range of quality public services and facilities to its residents,
   CFS-5, To work with local and regional institutions, non-profits and other service providers to provide a comprehensive system of social services necessary to meet the needs of city residents,
   OSR-2, To provide a connected system of open space and outdoor recreation amenities throughout the City that are strategically linked to transportation, public facilities, neighborhoods and appropriate private facilities;
   HC-1, To identify, protect and enhance the City’s cultural and historic resources;
   EN-1, To make Newport a leader in energy conservation and renewable energy use;

   **Policies**
   ED-1.3, The City shall work closely with local, regional and state educational institutions, leadership and practitioners to strengthen vital networks and associations between employers, workforce training, academic programs and curricula;
   ED-1.8, The City shall remain actively engaged in regional and statewide initiatives, collaboration programs and other actions necessary to attract and retain key employers;
   ED-3.5, The City shall make key capital investments that facilitate core economic development objectives;
CFS-1.2, The City shall work to coordinate with all community groups in order to improve all public facilities and services;
CFS-1.10, The City shall design new facilities and major renovations and/or additions to meet suitable LEED certification levels, incorporate low impact design elements that are energy efficient and otherwise designed to reduce environmental, energy and operational costs over the functional life of the facility;
CFS-5.1, The City shall continue to support local, municipal and regional operations and programs necessary and suitable to address the needs of disadvantaged citizens;
CFS-5.2, The City shall strive to integrate social services clients into the community’s broader strategic plans and operations, where such efforts are appropriate, including, but not limited to, workforce training;
CFS-6.1, The City shall give due consideration to the needs of community groups for program and meeting space that is not otherwise being provided in the community;
CFS-6.2, The City will seek to provide indoor recreation as a component of its community and/or senior centers where feasible and appropriate;
OSR-2.1, The City shall insure that new and existing recreational amenities are designed to link neighborhoods, complimentary uses and recreational amenities;
HC-1.2, The City should consider historic and cultural resources when making operational decisions to successfully enhance and protect historic and cultural resources;
HC-1.7, The City shall work in tandem with cultural institutions to create economic benefit for the entire community;
HC-1.9, The City shall create and implement innovative programs and practices to assure the equitable allocation of cultural and art resources throughout the City with respect to geography, income, age, and other constituent attributes;
HC-3.1, The City shall foster and work with other organizations in their efforts to enhance the City’s museums, libraries, art, theater, musical and cultural institutions;
HC-3.2, The City shall promote the development and growth of Newport’s arts and cultural resources;
EN-1.2, Then City shall continue to promote and support programs, agencies and funding sources that provide guidance and financial assistance for the development and renovation of energy efficient buildings and for the development of appropriate renewable energy resources in the community;
EN-1.3, The City shall strive to achieve a 20% reduction in energy consumption by 2020 through energy efficient design and conservation.

2. **Public Facility: Provide funding for window replacement at the Boys and Girls Club located at 95 Church St.**

Relevant goals and policies for this activity include Goals CFS-1, CFS-5, OSR-2, HC-1, and EN-1; Policies ED-1.8, CFS-1.2, CFS-1.10, CFS-5.1, CFS-6.1, CFS-6.2, OSR-2.1, HC-1.2, HC-1.7, HC-1.9, HC-3.1, EN-1.2, and EN-1.3.

3. **Public Facility: Provide funding for Merton Rd for repairs and improvements.**

This project was reviewed by the Planning Board for the Program Year 18 application. It has remained unchanged and was found by the Board to not conflict with the Comprehensive Plan policies during the PY 18 review process.
4. Public Facility: **Provide funding for upgrades to the playground on Kingston Ave.**

Relevant goals and policies for this activity include:

**Goals**
CFS-1, OSR-1, To provide a range of open space and outdoor recreational amenities for use by residents and visitors, and OSR-2;

**Policies**
CFS-1.3, The City shall ensure health, safety, and long-term general welfare of residents through its ownership, maintenance and operation of the City’s public facilities and services;
CFS-1.4, The City shall strive to improve its buildings and facilities to meet all applicable ADA, life safety and other applicable codes;
CFS-1.8, The City shall design facilities and operations to be suitable and appropriate to their setting and context, particularly with regard to established residential neighborhoods and historic structures and features;
OSR-1.3 The City shall support, encourage and maintain the availability of recreational facilities and programs for all citizens;
OSR-2.1 The City shall ensure that new and existing recreational amenities are designed to link neighborhoods, complimentary uses and recreational amenities where possible.

5. Public Services: **Provide funding to support the McKinney Shelter’s provision of services to its homeless client residents.**

Relevant goals and policies for this activity include:

**Goal**
CFS-5 To work with local and regional institutions, non-profits and other service providers to meet the needs of City Residents;

**Policies**
CFS-5.1 The City shall continue to support local, municipal, and regional operation and programs necessary and suitable to address the needs of disadvantaged citizens;
CFS-5.2 The City shall strive to integrate social service clients into the community’s broader strategic plans and operations, where such efforts are appropriate.

6. Public Services: **Provide funding to support EBCAPs dental program offered to residents of Newport County.**

Relevant goals and policies for this activity include Goal CFS-5 and Policies CFS-5.1 and 5.2.

7. Public Services: **Provide funding for the Community Housing Resource Board/Housing Hotline of Newport County to continue to provide emergency housing of homeless persons in motels when no other options are available.** The CHRB also provides housing counseling,
referral services, and education and outreach to affirmatively further Fair Housing in Newport County.

Relevant goals and policies for this activity include Goal CFS-5; Policies CFS-5.1 and CFS-5.2.

8. City Administration

Administration funding is required to implement these activities

**Planning Department Recommendation**

The staff recommends the Planning Board, taking into consideration its knowledge and expertise, and after considering all the representations and presentations made at the public meeting, certify that it has reviewed the proposed activities, been given the opportunity to comment on them, and determined that to the best of their knowledge, the activities “are not in conflict with the general policies set forth in the Comprehensive Community Plan.”