



MEMORANDUM

TO: Community and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Matt Rehbein, Economic Development Specialist
Brad Schmidt, Principal Planner

DATE: August 8, 2013

RE: Budget Adjustment for Neighborhood Academy

Over the past year, the Community and Economic Development Department has been crafting the Neighborhoods Program, which was approved by Council on October 2, 2012. We currently have four (4) Registered Neighborhoods (See attached map).

The goal of this program is to foster communication between neighborhoods and the City of Appleton. This program will assist in educating participants on the benefits of neighborhood organization as well as provide support to neighborhoods.

One of the key components of this program is the "Neighborhood Academy" which is a series of six (6) monthly modules. The Academy is designed to help neighborhood leaders; identify their boundaries, reach out to residents of their neighborhoods, identify problems and assets, and come up with solutions to those problems.

Current funding for the Neighborhood Academy is through the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). CDBG funding is restricted in where/how it can be used which limits participants of the Neighborhood Academy to those living in low-to-moderate (LMI) areas. Only a portion of City residents would be allowed to participate rather than the entire community. CDBG funding also requires that Staff verify the income of all participants which would be intrusive and would reduce the number of participants willing to participate. In addition, Staff time would be used to collect and verify income of the Neighborhood Academy participants in order to ensure those participating meet the income guidelines of CDBG.

A budget adjustment is being requested to fund the Neighborhood Academy so that all of the City's residents can participate in the program.

Staff Recommendation:

Re-Allocate \$5,000.00 from account 13040.6101 GIS regular salaries to this program. Per the City's budget policy this action also needs Finance Committee approval and 2/3 vote of Council.