

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on April 7, 2015

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

February 19, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson McEachran, Commissioners Bruels, Kline, Villar

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioners Beighle, Perelman, Plaskon

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Joseph Adriano, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chair McEachran who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioners Beighle, Perelman and Plaskon, all of whom were excused.

3. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Villar reported that she attended the Leadership Eastside luncheon on February 12. She said Oliver Troy and Steven Lam from the Chinese Information and Service Center were at the table she facilitated. Both asked her to thank the Commission for supporting Cultural Navigator program.

Commissioner Villar said that along with Commissioner Kline she participated in the visit to Hopelink. She noted that while the food bank is open three days per week, folks can only come in twice a month to pick up food. While there they can pick up food for up to 15 meals per week, for a total of 30 meals per month.

Commissioner Kline said food bank staff were asked if they coordinated with any other food bank in the area and the answer given was that they do not. They do

coordinate with the distribution organizations for deliveries, and they provide emergency feeding packages to various locations.

Commissioner Villar said Hopelink is also reaching out to Bellevue College to figure out why more students there are leveraging the food bank.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie reported that she attended a meeting earlier in the day at which the Redmond police chief called together police and human services staff from Eastside cities to talk about general issues around homelessness. Redmond has been having issues because The Landing program of Friends of Youth is located in that city. The meeting was the third of its type and included representatives from the King County Library System which in many cases serves as de facto day centers for the homeless. Library staff monitor behaviors inside the building, but many of the issues are occurring outside the building. One thing the Redmond police said they could do is provide a walk-around the building and developed suggestions for changes that could help to prevent issues. Overall it was a very productive meeting.

Ms. Leslie informed the Commission that the homeless shelter staff and agency work group would reconvene on February 20 to talk about the status of a permanent shelter. City staff will follow that up with a discussion about the panhandling issue.

5. REVIEW OF CDBG APPLICATIONS

Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano reported that a number of things had happened since the February 3 meeting where the Commission thought it had the CDBG allocations buttoned up. ARCH indicated that were the funding recommendation to go forward to the City Council, a discussion would have ensued regarding shelter site development. ARCH believes the City Council is not ready to address the issue and the discussion would have been premature.

Mr. Adriano explained that subsequent to the Commission's February 3 meeting HUD released its grant amounts for all entitlement cities, including Bellevue. The release so early in the year was unexpected. The amount of the entitlement is higher than anticipated by \$35,030, making it necessary to activate the contingency plan that was put into place in the fall of 2014. Under the contingency plan, the entire amount would be allocated to the Home Repair Program.

The increased allocation to Bellevue raises the amount available for social services for 2015 beyond the projected \$17,765 to \$22,765.

Mr. Adriano said the recommendation of staff was to take the original CDBG 2015 recommendations from the fall of 2014 and revise them to add on the \$180,000, to revise the amount for the Home Repair Program, and if so desired to do something different with the public service funds.

Ms. Leslie said the ARCH Board has set aside funds for the Congregations for the Homeless shelter development consultant. Not giving ARCH the CDBG funds will not result in the loss of the consultant.

Mr. Adriano pointed out that on February 3 the Commission contemplated the potential use of additional CDBG funds for an ARCH project, with the most likely project being Bellevue Manor. However, he said the staff do not believe the option should be given priority unless there are no other projects available to fund. Bellevue partners with ARCH and the King County Housing Authority for Davis Bacon monitoring activities at Bellevue Manor, but ultimately the city is responsible for any variance with regard to enforcement of that act; additional funding for Bellevue Manor would add to the city's risk.

Ms. Leslie clarified that the staff proposal is to take the money that was going to go to Congregations for the Homeless for the development consultant and use it to almost fully fund the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club proposal.

Chair McEachran asked if Congregations for the Homeless had been informed regarding the proposed change. Ms. Leslie said they had not been told, though the agency is aware the Commission was deliberating the outcome. Mr. Adriano said no announcements have been made about the recommended CDBG allocations; all agencies understand the Commission is still deliberating.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Kline, Mr. Adriano clarified that the Commission had originally recommended an allocation of \$35,000 to the Home Repair Program. Subsequently HUD came through with an additional \$70,000.

Commissioner Kline commented that the Commission had previously questioned whether or not the Home Repair Program could absorb a substantial increase in funding. Mr. Adriano said the \$35,000 originally recommended by the Commission is within the program's ability to absorb in the timeframe that runs through September 2015. If an additional \$35,000 is earmarked for the program, the agency would have until September 2016 to use them.

Commissioner Villar voiced concern about extending the men's shelter but not the women's shelter. Ms. Leslie said the women's shelter is already scheduled to be open through April 15, while the men's shelter is scheduled to close on March 31. There is also the possibility of additional funds coming from the city of Seattle and/or United Way of King County which is getting ready to issue an RFP for shelters outside of the Seattle city limits, and both Sophia Way and Congregations for the Homeless would be able to apply for funds.

Commissioner Kline asked if the additional funds from HUD changes the cap for public services. Mr. Adriano said the increased award raises the cap from \$17,765 to \$22,765 for public services. Ms. Leslie said the \$22,765 could be divided between Sophia Way and Congregations for the Homeless.

Commissioner Villar said another option would be to allocate the \$17,765 to Congregations for the Homeless and the remaining \$5000 to Sophia Way since the women's shelter was already scheduled to stay open longer.

Ms. Leslie said the cap for planning and administration also increased with the larger award from HUD. She said staff plugged an additional \$5000 into that category to defray the cost of the phone and online survey.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Kline, Mr. Adriano said the recommended action was to cancel the recommendations previously made by the Commission and to approve a new allocation recommendation.

Commissioner Villar suggested adding a note to the approved contingency plan making it clear that an additional \$35,030 had been received from HUD. The suggestion was agreed to by the other Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline clarified that the new recommendation included two changes from the previous recommendation. Instead of allocating \$68,000 to Congregations for the Homeless and \$31,000 to Bellevue Boys & Girls Club, \$99,210 would be allocated to the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club, an additional \$5000 would be allocated to Sophia Way, and an additional allocation of \$5000 would be made to Planning.

A motion to adjust the allocations approved on February 3 by decreasing the allocation to Congregations for the Homeless by \$68,000, increasing the allocation to Bellevue Boys & Girls Club to \$99,210, increasing the allocation to Sophia Way by \$5000, and increasing the allocation to CDBG planning by \$5000, was made by Commissioner Kline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruels and it carried unanimously.

A motion to revise Attachment B of the 2015 contingency plan to add items 3, 4 and 5 was made by Commissioner Kline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruels and it carried unanimously.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie reminded the Commissioners about the joint boards and commissions meeting on February 25.

7. NEW BUSINESS - None

8. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Villar and it carried unanimously.

Chair McEachran adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date