

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

July 7, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Stout, Commissioners Beighle, Hoople, Huenefeld-Gese, Plaskon, Seltzer, Yantis

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Joseph Adriano, Patrick Tippy, Department of Parks & Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Stout who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 2, 2009

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Beighle. Second was by Commissioner Hoople and the motion carried unanimously.

B. June 16, 2009

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Beighle. Second was by Commissioner Hoople and the motion carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Chair Stout noted that all of the Commissioners attended either the memorial service or celebration for Councilmember Noble. The staff also participated. She said his death is a huge loss for both the city and the Commission.

Commissioner Hoople said in his role of serving on the King County Veterans and Human Services Oversight Board he has been visiting South King County councils and staff. The most recent presentation was made before the Issaquah City Council. A draft of the annual report of the Oversight Committee was delivered to the King County Council in early June; when it is officially released it will include extensive data on veterans. More agencies are on board now with asking clients specifically if they have served in the military rather than if they are veterans and that is leading to the collection of increased data points.

Commissioner Beighle reported that she continues to serve on the Meydenbauer Bay Park Steering Committee. The DEIS was released in June and the public comment period for it will close on July 20. The steering committee has made its initial recommendations for what should be in the park, and its final report should be released by the end of July.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly introduced summer intern Patrick Tippy, a graduate student in the Evans School of Public Affairs focused on non-profit management and cooperation with government. Mr. Tippy said he has been working with staff on updating the Needs Update. He said he formerly worked for Hopelink and is an amateur winemaker.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie reported that the King County budget committee recently considered a recommendation for a supplemental appropriation proposed by King County Executive Triplett. The appropriation would continue funding all of the programs that were placed in the lifeboat through the end of 2009; methods to assure continued funding beyond the end of the year are under consideration, including a possible ballot measure. The budget committee passed on the issue to the full County Council without a recommendation; the County Council is slated to consider the matter on July 13. In the interim, the County Council did act to extend the funding for the lifeboat programs until such time as the Council acts on the supplemental appropriation. The cities of Redmond and Kirkland have forwarded to the King County Council indications of support for continued funding of the programs through 2009, and the Bellevue City Council is considering doing the same.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Review 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applications/Updates

Ms. Leslie reminded the Commissioners that no request for proposals was sent out given the anticipation that CDBG funding for 2010 would not include significant new dollars. Accordingly, the process used in prior years when no new revenues were available will be utilized again; the process asks the core programs funded with CDBG dollars to simply provide an update and indicate what funding might be needed in the coming year. She noted that a summary of the submitted updates had been provided to the Commissioners.

Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano said the updates submitted were from ARCH for the Housing Trust Fund, the Major Home Repair Program, the Minor Home Repair Program, and administration and planning. In all, the ask totals about \$827,000. The expectation is the city will have just under \$794,000 to allocate, a difference of \$33,000.

Ms. Leslie said the shortfall is due in part due to the fact that there are fewer reprogramming funds that were previously allocated but not spent, and less income from loan repayments.

With regard to the ARCH application, Mr. Adriano noted that the document specifically mentions allocating funds to Issaquah Highlands project.

Chair Stout said it is heartening to read the list of projects ARCH has been able to bring online over the years. She suggested that the money invested in the organization have been well spent.

Mr. Adriano said the application amount for the Major Home Repair Program is lower than it has been in years past. Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly said the reduced funding level will require the institution of a cap and will fund only about 30 projects rather than the usual 60 or so even though demand for the program is up. Receipt of the CDBG-R funds will benefit the current year Home Repair clients that are on the waiting list.

Commissioner Yantis observed that the reduction in program revenues from \$467,000 to \$400,000 is significant but asked why that would require reducing the number of projects by half. Ms. O'Reilly explained that not all of the funds are used for new loans; some are used for staff costs. She said there is about \$300,000 available for loans, and about 18 percent is paid to the King County Housing Authority for administration. Applications for projects trickle in over the course of the year. Once the homeowner is approved, bids are sought for the entire amount of the work; if the total for all the work is greater than the \$7000 cap, the Repair Specialist

and the homeowner will be asked to prioritize the most important elements. That will allow for spreading the funds to as many projects as possible.

Commissioner Plaskon asked how the program avoids running out of money before the end of the year when the cold weather comes in. Ms. O'Reilly said that is a difficult dance. Usually there is a larger carryover with which to begin the year. It is hoped that the CDBG-R funds will show up in the last quarter of the year; if it does, that will bolster the program at just the right time.

Mr. Adriano pointed out that the ask for the administration and planning applications is significantly lower than it was in 2008 and 2007. Ms. Leslie reminded the Commissioners that the planning and administration dollars are used to reimburse the city for staff time, to pay dues for regional and national organizations, for mortgage fees and legal notices, and to reimburse for the staff support of the Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee. She noted that the planning amount is significantly reduced from the 2008 level, primarily because the telephone survey done every two years will not be done in 2009. The planning budget also supports the intern program.

Mr. Adriano said the Minor Home Repair Program ask remains flat relative to the 2008 allocation.

Commissioner Yantis observed that with the exception of the Minor Home Repair Program the CDBG applications reflect reductions of between five and 17 percent. He asked why the Minor Home Repair Program did not come forward with an ask that is similarly reduced. Ms. Leslie said the instructions sent out to the agencies was that the expected funding levels would be approximately the same as previously awarded or less. The Minor Home Repair Program ask is in line with those instructions.

Commissioner Yantis said it is not possible to look at any of the programs and see obvious places to cut. He said his preference would be to take an equal percentage from each application to reduce the total by \$33,000. He proposed taking the 2009 allocation and applying a consistent percentage reduction to see how it compares to the 2010 requests. With those calculations done, he said he would rather not cut the Major Home Repair Program below the requested \$400,000.

There was agreement to allocate the funds as follows: Housing Trust Fund, \$70,000; Major Home Repair Program, \$400,000; Minor Home Repair Program, \$50,445; CDBG Administration, \$39,581; CDBG Planning, \$89,387.

Motion to approve the preliminary CDBG recommendation as outlined was made by Commissioner Hoople. Second was by Commissioner Huenefeld-Gese and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Leslie pointed out the need to develop a contingency plan for how to allocate funds in the event there is more or less overall funding than projected. Assuming a decrease of \$50,000, the Commission proposed reducing the allocations to ARCH, the Minor Home Repair Program and the Major Home Repair Program by an even percentage of their 2010 proposed allocations. Assuming an increase of \$50,000, the Commission proposed increasing the allocations of each application by an even percent of their 2009 allocation. It was agreed to finalize the contingency plan at the next meeting.

7. OLD BUSINESS – None

8. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Adriano said staff is working to schedule a tour of the YWCA program and noted that dates in the last week of July are being considered. He said he would send out tentative dates by email.

9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Stout adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date