

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting October 6, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Durian (aye), Effie Kokkinos (aye), Ray LaPoint (aye) Elma (Pat) Maye (aye), Nadeem Mirza (aye), Edward Morgan (aye), Sandra Sheppard (aye), Fiorella Spalvieri (aye), Amanda Woodin (aye), Lindy Nebiolo (aye), Youth Representative.

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Spalvieri moved and Mirza supported approval of the September 1, 2016 minutes. Motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Human Service Grant, Small Work Group Update: Woodin provided an update on the small work group activities and briefly summarized the two memos that were included in the agenda. The Board held a lengthy discussion on the need for presentations with members making points for continuing to include or eliminate the optional presentations from applicants. Comments included: presentations allow the Board to question applicants, presentations provide a greater understanding of the organization's overall role in the community, allow for personal interaction with the Board, allow return applicants to show progress or funding use, presentations can create bias and unduly influence the Board when all review and ranking criteria are included in the grant application, presentations are not always tailored to the Portage grant request, the person giving the presentation is not always the person who completed the grant application and, therefore, is not able to answer questions when posed, and the quality of many presentations is such that additional insight or information is not gained by the Board. Morgan made a motion and Kokkinos supported continuing the optional presentations for any applicant that chooses to present. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-3 with Maye, Spalvieri, and Woodin dissenting.

The Board continued their discussion of the other items on the memo from Woodin to City Council and Durian moved and LaPoint supported accepting all other changes as presented and forwarding the memo to City Council. Motion passed 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Red Ribbon Week: Red Ribbon Week activities would take place on October 18th at the City Council meeting with members of a local Boy Scout Troop and Elementary School participating. It was decided that the small group meeting that took place over the summer was a good way to kick start the Red Ribbon Week activities and it would be continued in the future.
1. Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update - Maye: Maye provided an update and indicated that an agreement had been worked out with Meijer to extend bus service to their location in Oshtemo, that she was looking into funding options on providing tokens to residents as bus fares were expensive to customers on fixed incomes, that the new Sunday and extended services were going well, and that shelters continue to be upgraded and installed throughout the county.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: Durian indicated she had gone to an Active Shooter training offered by the Portage Department of Public Safety. She encouraged all Board members to go to a training or have it provided by their employer. She complimented the city staff that conducted the training and was thoroughly impressed and felt well educated and prepared after she completed the training. Maye also informed the Board that Mirza would be giving a talk at the Portage Public Library on memory loss. As several members indicated an interest in attending, Mirza indicated he would provide them with information.

ADJOURNMENT: Maye move and Durian supported adjournment. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

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