

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting February 2, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 6:34 p.m.

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Motion made by Mirza and supported by Morgan to excuse Durian. Motion passed 8-0.

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Morgan moved and LaPoint supported approval of the January 19, 2017 minutes. Motion passed 8-0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program – Overview of Housing and Community Development Needs for Annual Action Plan Update: Maye moved and Mirza supported opening the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. Motion passed 8-0. City staff Money presented the information which included statistics on demographics, homelessness, housing needs, as well as information on the Strategic Plan, FY 2017-18 Annual Action Plan, and prior program year performance (FY 2015-16). The Board had questions on clarification of homeless numbers, housing costs, and trends in housing. Staff clarified that the homeless count included homeless people at that time and would not include persons staying with relatives, that rental costs did not include vouchers, and that while the average median value of a home may seem high, it was, in fact, a decrease from 2009. As no other Board or public comments were received, Maye moved and Spalvieri supported closing the public hearing at 6:52 p.m. Motion passed 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FY 2017-18 Human/Public Service Review and Options: Kokkinos stated for the record that she has a professional relationship with The Ark and provides therapeutic services by contract, but her relationship with them will not affect her decision making. Woodin opened the conversation by referencing the staff memo and asking the Board for input. Spalvieri asked for clarification on the two funding options provided by staff. Money explained that, as referenced in the memo, the Portage Community Center (PCC) had a decrease in their annual budget for FY 2016-17. Per conversations with PCC, this is temporary and additional funding for FY 2017-18 should be secured. Because PCC is the largest recipient and the major social service provider within the city, a nearly \$5,000 cut to keep city funding at or below 30% of their budget, would have a significant impact on the agency. When asked which services would be impacted, Money referred to the PCC application and indicated that emergency services, youth development, and community collaboration would be three services impacted. The Board had a discussion about the impact of such a significant cut, whether funding problems were a sign of the times or if PCC and other agencies would be able to recover, and how City Council had

previously indicated no more than 30% of PCC's budget should come from city funds. LaPoint discussed the discrepancy in funding between the other high scoring/ranking applicants The Ark, YWCA, and HRI. It was noted that HRI received significantly more than the other two agencies but that all three always scored/ranked about the same – and close to the number one ranked agency, PCC. Gryphon Place also received a disproportionate amount of funding compared to its score/rank. LaPoint also indicated that in previous years, new applicants had received \$1,500 or less, including new agencies that had not yet proven their unique status and impact on the community. LaPoint felt that was also a good amount for Twelve Baskets given that there were a number of other food pantries in the city and community as a whole. Spalvieri asked for a survey as to how the Board felt about the two options as presented by staff with regards to funding PCC. Four Board members and Nebiolo felt option 1 was appropriate, two members felt option 2 was the best option, and two were undecided. Woodin brought up other funding options, including funding new organizations at a higher amount, funding the newer current applicants more as they have proven themselves within the community, and how to award new applicants when they do not score/rank as high as existing applicants. As the city had not yet received a finalized funding amount from HUD, no decision on funding was made with the understanding a final recommendation would be made at the March 2nd meeting.

2. Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update - Woodin: Woodin indicated the 50th Anniversary celebration was February 23rd at 4:30 at the 530 North Rose Street office for any who would like to attend.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: No citizens were present.

ADJOURNMENT: Maye moved and Sheppard supported adjournment at 7:40 p.m. Motion passed 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist