

## **CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

Minutes of Meeting March 30, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:35 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Diane Durian (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Ray LaPoint, Elma (Pat) Maye (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Effie Kokkinos, Nadeem Mirza, Sandra Sheppard, Fiorella Spalvieri, Amanda Woodin

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Edward Morgan, Libby Nibeolo

**STAFF PRESENT:** Vicki Georgeau, Director of Community Development, Tom McCoy, Neighborhood Program Specialist

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Spalvieri moved and Mirza supported approval of the March 2, 2017 minutes as submitted. Motion passed 6-0.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Draft CDBG Program FY 2017-2018 Annual Action Plan: A motion was made by Spalvieri, supported by LaPoint to open the public hearing. Motion passed 8-0. Georgeau presented summary of the five-year Consolidated Plan and One-Year Annual Action Plan for activities related to City of Portage Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Included was a review of national objectives, program income limits, Low/Moderate Income Neighborhoods, a 5-year comparative analysis of budget and program expenditures, and the specifics of the proposed FY 2017-18 budget, as well as target dates for the approval process by City Council and the Detroit HUD Field Office. Georgeau explained that the city has still not yet been informed of its FY 2017-18 entitlement grant amount and that the plan will need to be revised once notice is received, which is now anticipated in May 2017. No questions or comments from the public were received, however LaPoint raised a question regarding budget cuts in FY 2018-19 as the President's plan proposes to eliminate the CDBG Program. Georgeau responded that similar proposals to eliminate the CDBG Program had been made in the past, and staff has previously considered alternative funding sources from MSHDA for housing programs, and options to continue providing necessary services should the CDBG appropriation be reduced or eliminated. Staff noted that the CDBG Program has been supported by members of Congress in a bi-partisan manner in the past, and staff is hopeful the program will not be eliminated, but anticipates further cuts in appropriations. As no further discussion or public comment was received, Maye moved and Durian supported a motion to close the public hearing. Motion passed 8-0. Maye then moved and LaPoint supported a motion that the Board recommends approval of the draft FY 2017-18 Annual Action Plan to City Council. Motion passed 8-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan Update: Kris Miller, Executive Director presented information regarding current activities and services provided by the Fair Housing Center. Mr. Miller also extended an invitation to attend 2017 Annual Fair Housing Conference on Wednesday

April 26<sup>th</sup> at Fetzer Center. Georgeau thanked Mr. Miller for the helpful input provided by the Fair Housing Center during the recent City of Portage non-discrimination ordinance development process and Maye commented on the need for assistance and support to individuals who have sources of income that may potentially be considered as unusual or unreliable. Mr. Miller discussed two recent fair housing cases in Portage that involved reasonable accommodations for a tenant with disabilities, and another case that involved discrimination against a tenant with disabilities. Mr. Miller also discussed other initiatives that the center will be working on, including assisting communities with public participation during the development of HUD grantee Fair Housing Assessment plans, and a new nation-wide racial healing initiative funded by the WK Kellogg Foundation called “Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation”. Georgeau mentioned the Mr. Miller will also at the April 11<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting to accept a proclamation for Fair Housing Month.

FY 2017-18 Goals and Objectives and FY 2016-17 accomplishments: Woodin referred to the draft memo to City Council regarding Board activities in FY 2016-17, year to date, as well as proposed Human Service Board goals and objectives for FY 2017-18. Per a suggestion from Spalvieri, the Board agreed to include in the FY 2017-18 goals and objectives a new line item 3(c)3, review of annual activities pertaining to non-discrimination ordinance and diversity initiatives. Spalvieri moved and Maye supported a motion to approve the memo to Council and the FY 2017-18 goals and objectives, as revised. Motion passed 7-0 (LaPoint departed meeting at 7:15 p.m).

Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update: Woodin reported from the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting that the local bus services were providing free fare Fridays as part of 50 year anniversary, that Sunday service was growing in popularity, that Community Service vans are currently booked to capacity, and that display boards at bus shelters were being replaced due to vandalism. In addition, Woodin noted that transit authority website was been updated to improve ease of use and display of information.

**STATEMENT OF CITIZENS:** No citizens were present.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Spalvieri moved and Kokkinos supported adjournment at 7:35 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Georgeau, Director of Community Development