

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting June 1, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Durian, Ray LaPoint, Elma (Pat) Maye (arrived at 6:40 p.m.), Effie Kokkinos, Nadeem Mirza, Stephanie Upshaw, Amanda Woodin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Fiorella Spalvieri (excused), Sandra Shepard

STAFF PRESENT: Tom McCoy, Neighborhood Program Specialist Department of Community Development

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Kokkinos moved and Durian supported approval of the March 30, 2017 minutes as submitted. Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduction of new board member Stephanie Upshaw: Woodin introduced Ms. Upshaw and asked her to introduce herself to the board, which she did, describing her background and the circumstances related to her appointment to the board. Board members welcomed Ms. Upshaw and thanked her for her participation on the Board.

Housing Rehabilitation Appeal: Woodin summarized agenda item. Discussion followed regarding circumstances and questions regarding necessity and cost of proposed activities. Staff answered questions and provided additional information regarding specific circumstances. Maye moved and Mirza supported motion to grant exception. Motion passed 7-0.

Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update: Woodin reported that ridership on Community Service vans continues to be very high and that vans have been in and out of service due to accidents and/or mechanical issues at times. Woodin also commented that the Refugee Council was working to provide transportation for refugees in the community. Maye advised that a new driver had been found for the Ecumenical service van but was in need of training, to be conducted later this summer.

Summer meetings and work groups: Woodin began discussion regarding excluding meetings for the months of July and August and the need for volunteers to conduct informal work groups during that time in order to prepare for activities beginning in October, i.e. Red Ribbon Week. Maye and Woodin agreed to meet in August to prepare. Durian moved and Maye supported motion to forego monthly meetings for July and August. Motion passed 7-0.

Resignation of Board member Edward Morgan: Woodin advised the Board of communication received from Mr. Morgan dated 5/1/17. It was discussed and understood by the Board that the appointment of Ms. Upshaw has since filled the vacancy.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: No citizens were present.

STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS OF BOARD MEMBERS: Woodin commented on copies of selected power point slides from Mayors most recent State of the City presentation that were furnished and distributed to Board by staff upon request. Also advised of upcoming presentation from Public Housing Commission representative David Artley, to be scheduled for October or November meeting. LaPoint reminded Board members that the Board has the authority to initiate a special project at any time should they wish to do so. Mirza suggested that as a matter of courtesy the Board may want to send thank you letter to those members who have concluded their term of service. Woodin agreed to furnish letters to both Mr. Morgan and former youth representative Libby Nebiolo.

ADJOURNMENT: Maye moved and Mirza supported adjournment at 7:00 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Georgeau, Director of Community Development