

## CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting October 5, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:38 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ray LaPoint, Amanda Woodin, Elma (Pat) Maye, Stephanie Upshaw, Fiorella Spalvieri

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Diane Durian; Nadeem Mirza

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Effie Kokkinos

**STAFF PRESENT:** Vicki Georgeau, Director Department of Community Development

**MOTION TO EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:** Maye moved and Woodin supported motion to excuse 2 absent members. Motion passed 6-0

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Durian moved and Spalvieri supported approval of the September 5, 2017 minutes as submitted. Motion passed 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS – Red Ribbon Week activities/proclamation:** Woodin noted that Maye has received a commitment from students at the Kalamazoo Country Day School to attend the October 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to read and receive the Red Ribbon Week proclamation. Georgeau indicated that the Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem could be available to give the students a brief tour of City Hall and get a photo by the Red Ribbon Week banner in the City Hall library. Georgeau shared with the Board draft artwork for proposed new Red Ribbon Week banners to be displayed in City Hall, the Police Department and Portage District Library. LaPoint recommended a revision to the wording and the Board concurred the new banner artwork was otherwise acceptable. Georgeau also referred the Board to the 2016 report from the Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force and suggested that it be provided to Council at the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting along with the Red Ribbon Week proclamation. The report summarizes data on youth tobacco and substance abuse and efforts to reduce the use of such substances throughout the County. Maye accepted the reports for distribution at the Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Presentation by Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission:** David Artley and Joe Schmidt of the Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission, Lisa Wilcott of Lakewood Management and Michelle Davis of Housing Resources, Inc. (HRI) were present to provide an overview of the programs supported by the six-year county-wide Local Housing Assistance Fund millage (LHAF). The LHAF millage was approved by voters in November 2015 and its goal is to increase housing stability among families with school-aged children by providing temporary housing assistance and support services. The LHAF program is the only local millage of its kind in the country and is designed to provide rental subsidies to 100 families annually. Rental assistance and supportive services are generally provided up to a 12-month period per household. Referrals come from primarily school liaisons, but also through HRI, the YWCA and Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. Since the millage passed, the program has screened 250 households and has housed the targeted number of households in the first full year. To date, HRI has secured 33 participating landlords, but a shortage of landlords willing to participate in the program has been a challenge. Mr. Artley indicated the program is designed so that services

are provided on a parity basis throughout Kalamazoo County. Ms. Davis indicated that program participants typically are the working poor, including households with some source of income, as opposed to highest need households with no source of income. Highest need households are provided assistance through other community programs such as permanent supportive housing funded by federal and state programs. HRI indicated assistance from the city in raising awareness of the program would be helpful to ensure Portage residents can take advantage of the program. Georgeau indicated that information could likely be provided in the November edition of the Portager, and recommended HRI also reach out to the Portage Community Center and Portage Public Schools for outreach and promotion.

2. Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update: Woodin indicated there was not a quorum and the most recent meeting of the LAC was therefore cancelled. In addition, Woodin indicated the LAC is looking for a member to serve as chair of the committee.

**STATEMENT OF CITIZENS:** No citizens were present. Georgeau noted that the Portage Community Center would attend the November Board meeting and provide an update on Fund Development activities. Per the conditions of approval recommended to Council by the Board, PCC is to provide one, mid-year update to the Board during FY 2017-18. In addition, Georgeau noted that Kalamazoo County Transit Authority could attend the December meeting and provide an update on fixed-route and demand response bus services in Portage.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Maye moved and Durian supported adjournment at 7:20 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Georgeau, Director of Community Development