

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting – March 2, 2023

5:30 p.m. Conference Room 1

CALL TO ORDER: The City of Portage Special Human Services Board meeting of March 2, 2023, was called to order by Chair Brooke Kolodzieczyk at 5:34 p.m. in Conference Room 1, Portage City Hall, 7900 S. Westnedge Avenue, Portage MI.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Brooke Kolodzieczyk, Vice Chair Jihan Young, Effie Kokkinos, John Dillworth, Justin Phan, Chelsea Huber, and Sue Beasley.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bridget Lane, Monica Lloyd

OTHERS PRESENT: Ludim Torres, Chris Buckley, Marilyn Storch & Don Jones

STAFF PRESENT: Tina Perry, Neighborhood & Housing Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of February 2, 2023 were approved by a motion made by Jihan Young and supported by Effie Kokkinos. The motion was unanimously approved, 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

CDBG Public Hearing for Substantial Plan Amendment in the CDBG-CV program. An amendment in the FY2021-22 Annual Action Plan proposes to reallocate \$110,341 of the \$237,041 CDBG-CV3 grant received from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. This reallocation will support timely spending that prevents, prepares for, and responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. Housing Resources Inc. will receive the reallocated funding to support housing stabilization due to COVID, such as eviction prevention, rapid re-housing, and utility assistance.

Chairperson Brooke Kolodzieczyk noted no written comments have been received and requested a motion to OPEN the public hearing to any Public Comments. Jihan Young made a motion to Open the public hearing, Effie Kokkinos supported the motion, and it was supported the motion and it unanimously passed 7-0. No public comments were received. Chairperson Brooke Kolodzieczyk requested a motion to Close the Public Hearing to receive comments about the reallocation of CDBG CV funds. John Dillworth made a motion to Close the public hearing, Chelsea Huber supported the motion and it unanimously passed 7-0.

Fair Housing month. A Proclamation is being forward to City Council at their March 21, 2023 meeting to declare April, 2023 a Fair Housing Month. Perry requested HSB volunteers may want to attend and read the proclamation. Vice Chairperson Jihan Young successfully did this on her own in the past and supported the “more the merrier” support of this request inviting all HSB that are willing to attend to read a portion of the Proclamation at the meeting.

In support of April being Fair Housing Month, a representative from the Center of Fair Housing of Southwest Michigan is attending the April 6 regular HSB meeting to provide an update of current affairs of Fair Housing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Human/Public Services funding process subcommittee: Chairperson Brooke Kolodzieczyk proposed the HSB utilize the quieter spring HSB meeting months to review the human service application process, application, and scoring, in preparation of the next cycle beginning in November.

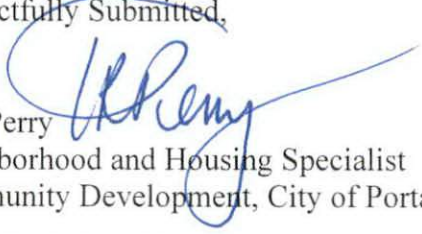
Regular meeting dates and times, beginning in May, 2023 where no formal business is needed, will be cancelled, and utilized for members to conduct their review.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS:

Chairperson Brooke asked if there were any citizen comments. Don Jones indicated he and Marilyn work with the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church programs that they offer to the public including Portage citizens. They are entertaining submission of an application to the HSB for funding support. Don had met with staff Tina Perry to receive an overview, the process and information including the application previously used. They have with some clarification questions. HSB commented their questions can be forwarded to Tina Perry to forward to the HSB to review during their upcoming review and preparation of the FY24-25 application with the HAB for discussion. Chris Buckley with Portage Community Center commented their origination is seeing a huge increase in the food pantry due to the reduction of SNAP food benefits. These benefits were increased due to COVID and are now being reduced causing unusually higher usage compared to previous years. PCC has the VITA program currently operating at PCC on Fridays for income tax assistance. PCC is well into their annual fundraising planning and things are going well there. Chris requested the Human Services funding application format be changed to one that can more easily be fillable. John Dillworth suggests surveying other organizations' formats.

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn was made by John Dillworth, second by Effie Kokkinos and unanimously supported. 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,


Tina Perry
Neighborhood and Housing Specialist
Community Development, City of Portage