

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting – May 6, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The City of Portage Human Services Board virtual meeting of May 6, 2021 was called to order by Acting Chairperson Upshaw at 6:05 p.m. Pursuant to the “Remote Attendance Rules for Meetings,” this meeting was held remotely with board members and staff participating via video/telephone call-in.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephanie Upshaw (Portage), MI), Nadeem Mirza (Portage, MI), Effie Kokkinos (Portage, MI), Tim Henson (Portage, MI), Barbara Sagara (Portage, MI), Brooke Kolodzieczyk (Portage, MI), Fayyaz Razi (Youth Advisory Board Representative – Portage, MI).

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Fi Spalvieri

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cristy Cate, Alice Mwanda

STAFF PRESENT:

Tom McCoy, Neighborhood Program Specialist, Christopher Forth, Deputy Director of Planning, Development and Neighborhood Services.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kokkinos moved and Henson supported a motion to approve the April 1, 2021 minutes. Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Metro Transit Update – No meeting conducted since the April 1, 2021 HSB meeting.

Fair Housing Center Update - Sharlee Coffman-Cook, Fair Housing Center of Southwest MI presented a report on activities conducted by the Fair Housing Center during the current fiscal year including data and statistics regarding housing discrimination reported in the greater Kalamazoo area and the City of Portage, the majority of which involve discrimination experienced by persons with disabilities. It was noted that the Fair Housing Center had provided helpful information and guidance to landlords who were either not familiar with or in compliance with rules and regulations relevant to the Americans with Disabilities Act and that most cases resulted in a resolution of reported issues. The Fair Housing Center continues to provide valuable assistance to those individuals who feel that they have experienced housing discrimination in Southwest Michigan.

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposed Revisions to Human Public Services Grant Application – The Board requested that Staff provide a draft of the revised application incorporating the proposed revisions submitted to

staff by a sub-committee of Board members who met in December 2020. Staff will prepare a draft to be included in the June 3, 2021 Human Services Board meeting Agenda.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: None received

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further discussion to come before the Board, a motion was made by Sagara and supported by Mirza to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion was approved 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,


Tom McCoy, Neighborhood Program Specialist

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