



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 9, 2021
Meeting held electronically**

PRESENT: Chair Janice Eng, Vice-Chair Jayne Hubbard, Commissioners Ashley Blaine, Roger Lurie, Andrew Song and Raoul Zubia

ABSENT: Commissioner Emily Reilly

STAFF: Greg Bestgen, Director; Irma Hollamby, Community Assistance Manager; Janis Bladine, Senior Assistant City Attorney; Mary Witkofski, Community Development Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eng called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present as listed above.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Eng welcomed new Commissioners Roger Lurie and Raoul Zubia. She noted that Commissioner Zubia served on the Commission in the past.

Chair Eng said that this is Commissioner Song's last meeting. She thanked him for his invaluable contributions to the Commission and wished him good luck in his future endeavors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who submitted public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2021

VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 8, 2021 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER BLAINE SECONDED THE

MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD, COMMISSIONERS BLAINE, LURIE, SONG, AND ZUBIA VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

PARTING WORDS TO THE COMMISSION

Chair Eng commented regarding her term of service to the Commission, thanking staff and Commissioners for their hard work and commitment.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

COMMISSIONER BLAINE NOMINATED JAYNE HUBBARD FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION. NO SECOND WAS MADE. THE NOMINATION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD, COMMISSIONERS BLAINE, LURIE, SONG, AND ZUBIA VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

COMMISSIONER SONG NOMINATED COMMISSIONER ZUBIA FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION. NO SECOND WAS MADE. THE NOMINATION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD, COMMISSIONERS BLAINE, LURIE, SONG, AND ZUBIA VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Newly elected officers immediately assumed their positions.

2. REVISIONS TO THE COMMISSION BYLAWS RELATED TO THE SCOTTSDALE HOUSING AGENCY GOVERNING BOARD

Irma Hollamby, Community Assistance Manager, gave a brief overview of the structure of the Community Assistance Office, which is comprised of the Scottsdale Housing Agency, and Community Development. She announced that on January 30, 2021, HUD issued a report articulating concerns that the HUD field office, after performing an extensive monitoring of Scottsdale Housing Agency's programming, were concerned about the agency's governance and the lack of monitoring and oversight that has been exercised by the governing board. To address HUD's concerns, City Council passed Resolution 12108 in April 2021, designating the Human Services Commission as the City's public housing authority governing body and delegated authority for the Commission to provide oversight to the agency. The Commission will be provided the chance to review financials and other performance data prior to meetings. The governing board's bylaws must be updated to reflect this change.

Janise Bladine, Senior Assistant City Attorney, reviewed the proposed updates to the Human Services Commission Bylaws, highlighting the addition of a provision for the new Scottsdale Housing Agency Governing Board role.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Bladine noted that the bylaws will be brought back to the next meeting for formal approval.

3. EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS

Ms. Hollamby presented HUD'S NEW Emergency Housing Voucher Program. She said that on March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provides approximately \$1.9 trillion of relief to address the continued impact of the pandemic on the economy, public health, state and local government, individuals, and businesses. Section 3202 of the plan appropriated \$5 billion for emergency housing vouchers. Maricopa County region received 770 emergency housing vouchers, 34 of which were allocated to Scottsdale. People who are experiencing homelessness and living in a state unsafe for human habitation, those at risk for homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking or are in a temporary housing situation and without assistance would become homeless again are eligible for the program.

Phoenix Rescue Mission, Community Bridges, Save the Family, and Chrysalis have partnered with the City in making referrals for the Emergency Housing Voucher Program. To date, 40 referrals have been received, 14 of which have submitted eligibility packets; 11 are seeking a rental unit and two people are in a lease.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Hollamby explained that in addition to working with Scottsdale, the Continuum of Care has access to vouchers throughout the Valley.

4. 20/21 HUD CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)

Mary Witkofski, Community Development Supervisor, provided an overview of the 2020/21 HUD Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation (CAPER) and accomplishments for FY 2019/20. Her presentation included an explanation of the purpose of CDBG and HOME funds, the conditions of receiving federal grant funds, and a listing of projects and agencies that were allocated funds. The CAPER report is due annually on September 30th.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Witkofski said that Scottsdale Cares funds amounts have been similar over the past few years and are expected to show a decline for the coming year. Emergency roof repair funds were not all able to be expended, due to the pandemic and the inability to enter homes.

A discussion addressing the question of what additional services the City is anticipating with the end of the moratorium on evictions will be agendized for a future meeting.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Greg Bestgen, Director, thanked staff for their hard work to address changes over the past year. He thanked Ms. Bladine for her help over the past year and for her work on updating the bylaws.

Mr. Bestgen thanked Commissioner Eng for her years of service and encouraged her to continue participating as a private citizen.

Mr. Bestgen said that the City was allocated approximately \$11.5 million in CARES ACT funds from Maricopa County for emergency rental assistance and approximately \$5.4 million for utility

assistance. Staff at Vista del Camino, Senior Services, and the Senior Center as well as contract staff are working to expend the funds by the December deadline.

City of Scottsdale partnered with Phoenix Rescue Mission in September 2020 and since that time, they have had 262 unduplicated meaningful contacts with people experiencing chronic homelessness in Scottsdale. Mr. Bestgen commented that Phoenix Rescue Mission responds quickly when they receive a call about a person experiencing homelessness. In his experience, someone arrives within less than ten minutes. Phoenix Rescue Mission navigators have been doing weekly ride-alongs with Scottsdale police crime prevention officers.

The Brick-by-Brick program in partnership with Phoenix Rescue Mission has had approximately 40 unduplicated persons experiencing homelessness participate in the program. Those who are interested in participating, are able to meet at a southern Scottsdale church site on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and are taken by van to the site. Participants are given breakfast and lunch and a \$60 a day wage. Approximately 7,000 bricks have been made so far. Discussions are underway to use bricks to create bench seating at various trails in the Preserve as well as monument walls at the new Scottsdale Sports Complex. Recently an NGO expressed interest in using the bricks for a high-efficiency tiny home project geared towards housing people experiencing chronic homelessness.

Mr. Bestgen said that the City is hoping to engage with a third church that would act as another day relief center. As with the other day relief centers, Community Bridges would provide wraparound services and intensive case management for individuals.

Mr. Bestgen noted that Chair Hubbard is acting as chair for a new group involving the City of Scottsdale, faith communities, and Arizona Faith Network. The group will focus on options for housing people experiencing homelessness.

Youth and Family Services court program has developed a new DUI education curriculum for use as part of the court screenings. So far 150 screenings have been completed as part of the program.

Scottsdale Mayor's Youth Council has 25 members this year and is focusing their year on sustainability. Christy Hunn-MacDonald is working with the group and is striving to increase the group's involvement with individual City Council members.

Mr. Bestgen said that he was engaged by Mayor Ortega to partner with Tempe, Mesa, and Maricopa County to come up with a solution for helping people experiencing homelessness find a permanent shelter solution. As part of the partnership, each entity will contribute funding and work together to locate a facility. A consultant with experience working with the Human Services Campus, Ambre House, and Sunnyslope has been engaged to work with the group on the endeavor.

Mr. Bestgen said that many landlords are pulling out of the HUD program, because they feel that at this point it is not fiscally beneficial for them to participate. One community near Frank Lloyd Boulevard and Shea has said it will not renew leases for 49 participants. Ms. Hollamby has put together a plan and is hoping to bring in a landlord liaison to work more closely with landlords and market to potential new landlords.

Commissioner Song said this is his last meeting. He thanked staff and Commissioners for all that they do.

6. ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER ENG MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER SONG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) THE NOMINATION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR HUBBARD, VICE-CHAIR ZUBIA, COMMISSIONERS BLAINE, ENG, LURIE, AND SONG VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

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