



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 13, 2022
City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Neal Shearer, Vice Chair Tricia Serlin, Commission Members Patrick Dodds, Jeff Jameson, Roger Lurie, Mary Jung, and Stuart Turgel

STAFF: Greg Bestgen, Director; Mary Witkofski, Interim Community Assistance Manager; and Mike Lopach, Human Services Manager

Call to Order

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

Approve the regular Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2022

VICE-CHAIR SERLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER DODDS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS DODDS, JAMESON, LURIE, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSIDENTING VOTES.

2. Introduction to Neighborly Software at Community Assistance Office

Mary Witkofski, Interim Community Assistance Manager, provided an overview of Neighborly Software at the Community Assistance Office to administer the funding process, housing rehab

programs, HOME funds, and emergency security deposit coverage as part of landlord initiatives. She noted that Neighborly went live for the Housing Rehabilitation Programs and tracking emergency security deposit coverages on September 20, 2022. The funding process went live on September 29, 2022 with the release of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

Ms. Witkofski reviewed what applicants for the process have submitted thus far. Currently 15 applications are in process for the funding programs. Neighborly is the only way that applications are being accepted. Fifteen agencies attended the October 11, 2022 orientation.

The Commission will receive training on the Neighborly program at a later date.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Witkofski explained that agencies must submit a separate application for each funding source. Staff is available to answer questions for agencies trying to navigate the Neighborly software, but cannot tell them how to answer questions. Agencies who are in need of assistance during non-business hours can call Neighborly for technical assistance. She noted that the four funding priorities are listed on the City's website and were published at AZCentral.com

3. Brick by Brick Program Update

Mike Lopach, Human Services Manager, provided an update on the Brick by Brick projects and operations. As part of his presentation he talked about the history of native earthen materials; he and Director Bestgen's experiences learning about earthen blocks and the use of project volunteers with the Franciscans in Mexico; his experience enrolled in the Adobe in Action program in New Mexico; and the evolution of the program in Scottsdale.

The City received a Auram 3000 manual earthen block press in 2017, currently housed in the Vista del Camino warehouse along with brick storage. They recently received a second machine, which will be set up in the warehouse soon. Mr. Lopach said they are using local soil in for production of the blocks and described the process of ensuring that the soil they are using is not made up of expansive clay and the required federal IBC standards tests for durability. In 2020, thanks to CARES dollars, the City was able to take a step towards a social enterprise solution and is now partnering with Phoenix Rescue Mission to identify persons experiencing homelessness to participate in producing blocks for the program. Phoenix Rescue Mission coordinates participants, provides transportation, breakfast and lunch and has been instrumental in helping those people connect with the Human Services office to apply for housing vouchers.

Mr. Lopach talked in detail about opportunities that have arisen, including working with the Taliesin School of Architecture (TSOA); to work with professors from University of Washington and ASU to be part of a project through the ASU School of Architecture; and applying for a National Science Foundation Grant in partnership with professors from University of California Davis and University of South Carolina that would help work towards building affordable, sustainable and health earthen housing in FEMA disaster stricken areas. Mr. Lopach shared photographs of some of the capital projects that have been completed in partnership with the City of Scottsdale's parks and recreation department.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Lopach said that the impetus of the program is to make the bricks available to communities for public benefit.

Commissioners expressed an interest in a tour of the warehouse.

4. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future Meeting agenda items could include:

- Orientation on the funding process
- Discussion potential FY 2023/24 budget issues
- Update on bond projects relating to Human Services

5. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER TURGEL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR SERLIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS DODDS, JAMESON, LURIE, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.