



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 8, 2022
Granite Reef Senior Center Room 8
1700 N. Granite Reef Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Roger Lurie

STAFF: Director Greg Bestgen; Community Development Supervisor Mary Witkofski; Operations Supervisor Anthony Harrington; Human Services Representatives Julia Bautista and Anya Wright; Managers; Mike Lopach, Human Services Manager; Human Services Managers Eugenio Munoz-Villafane and Rachel Smetana; Kristy Hahn-McDonald, Human Services Manager

Call to Order

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 5:02 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 August 11, 2022

COMMISSIONER JAMESON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 11, 2022 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR SERLIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS DODDS, JAMESON, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

1a. Election of Officers

VICE-CHAIR SERLIN NOMINATED NEAL SHEARER FOR THE POSITION OF HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION CHAIR. COMMISSIONER JAMESON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS DODDS, JAMESON, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

COMMISSIONER JUNG NOMINATED TRICIA SERLIN FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER JAMESON SECONDED THE MOTION.

VICE-CHAIR SERLIN NOMINATED ROGER LURIE FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION. THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

THE NOMINATION FOR TRICIA SERLIN AS VICE CHAIR CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS DODDS, JAMESON, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Human Services Special Programs and Special Event Updates

Anthony Harrington, Human Services Operations Supervisor, gave a brief overview of family and senior programs, including the Beat-the-Heat program, Adopt-a-Senior program and Adopt-a-Family program. Anya Wright, Human Services Representative, said that 116 seniors participated in the Beat-the-Heat program this year. The City works in partnership with Scottsdale Community Partners to provide seniors with hygiene and snack items, and the Human Services team takes the opportunity to assess the well-being of the seniors. This year the Scottsdale Police Department helped with deliveries. She hopes to involve both police and fire departments next year. Julia Batista, Human Services Representative, said that 803 K-12 students were served as part of the Back-to-School program this year. The City worked in partnership with Scottsdale Community Partners to provide income eligible students with an opportunity to "shop" for back to school supplies on July 20, 2022. SUSD provided lunch for the children; First Things First donated activity bags; dental screenings and vision checks were sponsored by NOAH; Scottsdale Public Library provided free books.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Harrington explained that Community Partners assists with identifying students in need and ensuring that students do not fall through the cracks. Director Bestgen said that staff work closely between all the centers to connect families and individuals with needed public services.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the potential negative effects of decreasing SRPMIC funding, the Scottsdale Community Partners special programs budget, and public donations are collected at the community centers. Ms. Wright said that Commissioners who would like to volunteer are welcome to ride along with a social worker as part of the Adopt-a-Senior program.

3. FY 21/22 HUD Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Mary Witkofski, Community Development Supervisor, provided an overview of the 2021/22 HUD Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation (CAPER) and accomplishments for FY 2020/21. 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 explained that the Consolidated Action Plan is a five-year plan that currently ranges from 2020 to 2024 and that an Annual Action Plan that ties back to the Consolidated Plan is completed on an annual basis. The plan is available for viewing on the City website.

Ms. Witkofski said that Apache Park improvements will include resurfacing of the entire playground and replacement of the playground equipment, which was originally installed in 2000.

Commissioners expressed an interest in learning about funding sources and potential future funding gaps and challenges. Director Bestgen noted that some of the CB-3 funds will be available for use in homeless outreach efforts, including new programming that he anticipates City Council to approve in the near future. Once approved, he will provide the Commission with a report on the new programs.

4. Human Services Funding Process Proposed Changes

Ms. Witkofski reported on feedback she has received to date from Commissioners with regard to her earlier presentations, evaluation tools, and the current application, which were provided to Commissioners for review. Commissioner comments and staff responses were as follows:

Regarding staff's recommendation to move forward on a reimbursement basis, concern was expressed about impeding agencies' cash flow or capacity to deliver critical services.

Ms. Witkofski explained that the City currently requests that agencies provide services July to October before requesting the first reimbursement, regardless of the funding cycle.

Commissioners expressed support for changing scoring from zero to three to zero to five, giving Commissioners a greater opportunity to differentiate between various proposals and criteria.

Commissioners suggested to include criteria to assess if the funding proposal addresses a major Human Services priority on a scale from zero to ten. Ms. Witkofski said that priorities will be discussed in depth at a future meeting.

Commissioners requested a review of evaluation criteria; had questions about target populations; and clarification of program definitions. Ms. Witkofski will schedule a training.

Director Bestgen said he will be asking all managers to talk about priorities and gaps in funding needs. He will also be providing a statement from the administrative office as to overall observations within the department and possible staffing recommendations.

5. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Voter approved bonds that affect Human Services facilities
- Priorities discussion

- Ethics refresher
- Presentation about coordination with public safety

Director Bestgen shared an email he received from Jennifer Murphy telling a story about one of her clients. The story demonstrated the positive effect the Human Services staff can have on people's lives.

6. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER TURGEL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER DODDS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS DODDS, JAMESON, 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 6:20 p.m.

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