



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 14, 2021
Meeting held electronically**

PRESENT: Chair Janice Eng, Vice-Chair Jayne Hubbard, Commissioners Ashley Blaine, Cambria Bowman, James Campbell, and Emily Reilly

ABSENT: Commissioner Andrew Song

STAFF: Director Greg Bestgen; Irma Hollamby; Kevin McKee; Tracy Durso; Rebecca Kurth; Anthony Harrington

Call to Order

Chair Eng called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

No members of the public submitted public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2020

COMMISSIONER REILLY MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 12, 2020 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER BOWMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD, COMMISSIONERS BLAINE, BOWMAN, CAMPBELL, AND REILLY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Senior Center Recreation Event & Program Updates

Tracey Durso, Community Services Operations Supervisor, Rebecca Kurth, Community Services Supervisor and Anthony Harrington, Recreation Leader Senior presented updates on recreation programming for FY 2020/21. In response to COVID-19 restrictions, the senior

centers have implemented virtual programs, much of which was made available through the Facebook format. Limited in-person holiday programs were made available starting with “paint-a-pumpkin” in October, drive-through Thanksgiving meals, and drive-through holiday meals. Staff is developing additional programs that can be administered in a safe socially distanced environment.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Durso said that as vaccinations are made more available, consideration could be given to adjusting safety protocols to accommodate those who have been vaccinated. Director Bestgen noted that the City is looking into the possibility of getting essential workers, such as those who work at senior centers, vaccinated. He will forward additional information to Commissioners once it becomes available.

2. Community Assistance Office Programming Performance Update

Irma Hollamby, Community Assistance Office Manager, presented an update on the Community Assistance Office Programming Performance. She reviewed the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, HOME Investment partnership, and funding sources, including Scottsdale Cares, General Funds, SRPMIC grants, and Endowments. She noted that approximately 1,100 people confirmed their interest in remaining on the HCV list. She described the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program, which has had 13 graduates over the past five years.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Hollamby said that it is her understanding that the Community Assistance Office will receive approximately \$100,000 in SRPMIC funds this year.

Discussion ensued regarding the HCV program and the limited availability of units in Scottsdale. She anticipates that the waiting list will be opened up later this year. It is best to have three years of voucher authority on the wait list. Director Bestgen said that City leaders have a growing openness and understanding of the magnitude of the affordable housing crisis and seem open to entertaining discussions around the topic. Efforts are being made within the Community Assistance Office to encourage landlords to participate in the voucher program. Director Bestgen noted that in addition to Scottsdale’s rising rental rates, there is still some stigma about the program, based on a few program participants giving the program a bad reputation.

3. Adopt-A-Family Updates

Kevin McKee, Vista del Camino Manager, gave an update on the annual Adopt-a-Family program. In order to be eligible for the program, participants must meet the income eligibility of 200 percent federal poverty level and have at least one minor child. Senior or disabled adults with no minor children are referred to the Adopt-a-Senior program. Enrollment is open from September through the first of December for both participants and sponsors.

The Thanksgiving program distributes food packages the week before Thanksgiving. In light of COVID-19 concerns, gift certificates were given for turkeys instead of a frozen turkey.

The Holiday program contributions were distributed to families in mid-December. Sponsors are given an opportunity to shop for personal gifts based on information and stories provided by the

participants. Thanks to the CARES Act, funding, gift wrap and tape were included for participants.

The Holiday Foundation Program, made possible through the City's partnership with Scottsdale Community Partners, provides families who are not eligible for the Adopt-a-Family program for a variety of reasons with a \$150 gift card. Approximately 15 families were served through the Holiday Foundation Program this season.

4. Human Services Commission Annual Report

Greg Bestgen, Director, reviewed the Human Services Commission Annual Report. He highlighted significant future work products and upcoming opportunities, challenges, and outcomes. Director Bestgen and Commissioner Hubbard are working with MAG on behalf of the City to develop a new innovative plan to increase leadership strategies related to decision making within Maricopa County regional offices.

The City is anticipating additional CARES Act dollars that will be allocated to helping families facing eviction due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT. COMMISSIONER BLAINE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD, COMMISSIONERS BLAINE, BOWMAN, CAMPBELL, AND REILLY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Director Report

Director Bestgen commended staff in all departments for the leadership and creativity they have had in dealing with COVID restrictions. He said that the Adaptive Services Center will not be open in the near future. Many opportunities are available for participants online, in addition to outreach efforts such as porch visits and some outdoor, socially distanced activities. Youth and Family Services continues to hold classes for youth through the diversion program. The Restorative Justice Program is continuing, primarily through a virtual format. Paiute Neighborhood Center, Vista del Camino, and the Community Assistance Office are operating with limited lobby hours. Some in-person appointments are available by appointment only.

Director Bestgen said he recently gave a presentation to the new Council Members and Mayor Ortega, outlining programs offered by Human Services. Mayor and Council were provided with a senior center congregate meal during the event.

Vista del Camino CAP office is expecting approximately \$850,000 in additional CARES Act funds to be used for rent and utility assistance. Additional CARES Act funds to be applied to eviction prevention are anticipated in the near future.

On Tuesday, January 19th, Channel 10 will be reporting on the Brick-by-Brick program. To date more than 1,500 bricks have been made by homeless volunteers. The volunteers earn \$60 per day for their participation.

Day relief centers are open at Scottsdale Presbyterian Church and Southern Baptist Church. It is anticipated that a third church will offer the program soon.

The City received a donation of 5,000 outdoor clothing articles from Patagonia.

The Hotel shelter program, managed by Community Bridges, has so far assisted 36 individuals in securing permanent supportive rapid rehousing. Approximately 50 individuals and some couples have received assistance through the program.

As part of the Street Outreach program, Phoenix Rescue Mission has helped 75 individuals get into supportive programs. ELAINE has provided transportation to those individuals.

Chair Eng encouraged the new Commissioners to take a tour of the Brick-by-Brick program facility.

6. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER BLAINE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR HUBBARD, COMMISSIONERS BLAINE, BOWMAN, CAMPBELL, AND REILLY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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