

Approved 9/24/09



City of Scottsdale
Human Services Commission
Regular Meeting

Approved Minutes

5:00 PM, Thursday, September 10, 2009
The Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Call to Order

Chair Hemmingsen called the meeting to order at 5:17PM.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Kathleen Hemmingsen, Commissioners: Jo Ann Woodward, Steven Rosenberg, Andy Yates

Staff Present: Michelle Albanese, Tim Miluk, Theresa Schweitzer, Kim Pendergast (Audit), Kasey Moyers, Valerie Kime Trujillo, Kathy Breen, Philip Ben Hershkowitz, Sharon Light Stephenson, Cindy Ensign and Paul Ludwick

1. Approval of the May 28, 2009 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Commissioner Woodward move to approve the minutes and Commissioner Rosenberg seconded the motion. Minutes approved 4-0.

2. Human Services Commission Agenda Plan for 2009/2010

Paul Ludwick, Human Services Director, discussed the 2009/2010 agenda plan and asked for feedback on anything the Commissioners would like to see added. He also asked the Commission if they would like to move any of the displaced KIVA meetings back to City Hall, if they had specific interest in any topics or would like to prioritize the presentations by funded agencies.

Commissioner Rosenberg remarked the agenda plan should say “no meeting on 12/24” instead of 12/25.

There was some discussion on the October 8th cancellation. It was decided that discussion of an October 8th meeting would come up again when it was time to discuss the joint meeting with the Housing Board.

Chair Hemmingsen remarked that in the past there was a meeting in the spring that was a tour of Human Services funded or related facilities. Ms. Hemmingsen explained that the tour was a good experience and could replace a spring meeting. She suggested a tour of Family Promise, the Belleview Neighborhood or Holiday Park. Chair Hemmingsen also stated a goal of getting the STOMP program reinstated and suggested the topic be discussed at a meeting.

Commissioner Woodward stated that she would like to hear from agencies that were newly funded this fiscal year. She would also like to see a presentation by the Fit City initiative and receive information on differing trolley times for different routes.

Cindy Ensign explained that staff tried to fit in every funded agency and perhaps it was a bit too much.

Chair Hemmingsen stated she would like to hear from the newly funded agencies and those that receive a larger dollar amounts.

Paul Ludwick, Human Services Director, said staff would take consider those directions and make modifications to the agenda plan.

3. Letter from the Advocates for the Disabled

Paul Ludwick, Human Services Director, presented a letter from the Advocates for the Disabled requesting information on other possible funding sources. It was decided that a draft response to the letter would be prepared for the Chair of the Human Services Commission's signature and would encourage them to reapply for the 2010/2011 funding cycle.

4. Request for joint meeting with Housing Board

Paul Ludwick, Human Services Director, outlined several ideas on why it would be profitable to participate in a joint meeting with the Housing Board. He reminded the Commission about several low to moderate income housing issues in Scottsdale and the HUD money awarded during the funding process. Mr. Ludwick offered October 8th as a date to schedule the joint meeting.

Commissioner Rosenberg moved to approve a joint meeting with the Housing Board and Commissioner Yates seconded. Motion approved 4-0.

5. Fiscal Year Update

Cindy Ensign, Human Services Planner and Budget Specialist, directed the Commission to the 08/09 fiscal update and stated she would give a brief overview of the report as well as some trends in the community.

Ms. Ensign touched on the city wide reorganization, the move of Hugh McGill and Youth and Family Services to Parks and Recreation, the elimination of the assistant coordinator position at Vista del Camino and the Senior Centers, and the elimination of the STOMP program. She gave facts and figures about the substantial increase of requests for social services while employment opportunities are down. She sited a community increase in gang activity, family conflict and teen substance abuse documented by city staff.

Ms. Ensign pointed out some positive statistics from last year including increased demand for recreational activities, more people have volunteered this year, donations were higher, extra LIHEAP funds were available to help citizens in need pay their utility bills, and federal housing funds have increased. She elaborated on the planning process underway to develop a 5 Year

Plan for use as a guiding document for the future that will be brought before City Council in the spring.

Commissioner Rosenberg asked how the current economic situation will color the planning process. Paul Ludwick, Human Services Director, stated that by researching trends, Human Services Staff hoped to make accurate projections and the plan will be amended every year to account for unforeseen changes.

Commissioner Rosenberg asked if there has been an increase in domestic violence. Kathy Breen, Human Services Manager, explained that while there seems to be an increase, Vista del Camino staff has not specifically tracked that trend.

Mr. Ludwick said it is obvious that there is a big increase in demand with a reduction in people to meet that demand. He added that Scottsdale does rise to the occasion with donations and he was grateful to his hardworking staff.

Chair Hemmingsen complimented Ms. Ensign on the fiscal update saying it was "a fine piece of work".

6. Staff and Commission Updates

Discussion of this item was split at the beginning of the agenda to allow Bill Murphy, Managing Executive Director of Community Services, to introduce himself. He thanked the Commission for being supportive during the budget cuts and providing information to council. He explained that he was in the process of getting out to all the different sites to meet with staff and was happy to have an opportunity to be at the Commission meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Paul Ludwick returned the Commission's attention to the Staff Update presented and introduced Sharon Light-Stephenson.

Ms. Light-Stephenson explained that the Commission had been mailed an invitation to the Family Self Sufficiency graduation ceremony and that the program teaches people to become financially solvent while saving money in escrow. She stated that by the time most people complete the course, they have \$7,000 saved toward a new home or for other needs, and this year's graduating class has seen an increase in income of 127%.

Chair Hemmingsen stated that it was nice to see all the staff at the meeting and she appreciated the time and effort.

7. Open call to the Public (A.R.S. §38-431.02)

Chair Hemmingsen made an open call to the public for comment. There were no replies.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Woodward moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Rosenberg seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 6:03PM.

****Signatures needed when APPROVED by Commission**

Officially approved by the Human Services Commission at the 9/24/09 meeting.

Submitted by:


Rachel Smetana
Administrative Secretary



Date: 9-25-09

Reviewed by:

Paul F. Ludwick
Human Services Director



Date: 9-25-09