Call to Order

Chair Eng called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Chair Eng welcomed new commissioner Ashley Blaine.

Public Comment

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

Minutes

Regular Meeting – October 11, 2018

COMMISSIONER PORTNOY MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 11, 2018 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR BROWN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR BROWN, COMMISSIONERS BLAINE, CAMPBELL, HUBBARD, AND PORTNOY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. **CDBG Non-Public Service Set-Aside Requests for FY 2019/20**

Justin Boyd, Housing Supervisor, proposed goals and set-aside funding allocations for CDBG Non-Public Services for FY 2019/20.

Mr. Boyd reviewed the purpose and goals of the Green Housing Rehabilitation Program, Roof Repair and Replacement Program, and Emergency Repair Program. Eligibility for the programs is determined using the HUD mandated Federal Low-Income Eligibility Guidelines. It is anticipated that approximately 70 unduplicated households will receive assistance from the FY 2019/20 housing rehabilitation programs.

Total requested funds to cover costs of all three programs and administration costs is $500,000.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Boyd said that the emergency repair program expended more than its allocation last year and cost for personnel services has increased, so the request was increased by $20,000 this year. Funds can be shuffled between programs if needed. Typical applicants are single, elderly females living in the 85251, 85250, and 85257 zip codes.

Contractors go through an annual screening process and must be licensed, bonded, insured, and in good standing with the Registrar of Contractors. Their information is available to applicants on the City’s website. The Green Housing Rehabilitation Program application process takes approximately three months, because applicants must provide documentation of eligibility. Contractor contracts are completed within 60 days of approval.

Mr. Boyd reviewed the proposal for set-aside funds for replacement of Paiute Neighborhood Center playground equipment. Equipment replacement at this location is on the City’s replacement schedule, but no funds are allocated to the project. Equipment is deteriorated beyond repair. The shade structure is in good condition and will remain in place.

The total requested set aside is $170,000 and will cover the cost for environmental services to test the space, equipment, and contracted services. The project will be completed through the City’s purchasing department under an existing state procured contract.

**VICE-CHAIR BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SET-ASIDE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR CDBG NON-PUBLIC SERVICES FOR FY 2019/20. COMMISSIONER CAMPBELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ENG, VICE-CHAIR BROWN, COMMISSIONERS BLAINE, CAMPBELL, HUBBARD, AND PORTNOY VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.**

2. **Brick by Brick Presentation**

Mike Lopach, Human Services Specialist, presented an overview of the Brick by Brick Project. He gave background about how he learned about the benefits of using adobe bricks in earthen construction. He talked about modern innovations in earthen brick manufacturing and how the thermal flywheel effect works. He explained that his non-profit Adobe-in-Action together with the City of Scottsdale approached Partners for Paiute for funding to purchase a compressed
earth block machine. The goal is to engage volunteers to work making compressed earth block that can then be used in community development projects and affordable housing projects.

Intern Leila Khan spoke about her interest in becoming involved with the Brick by Brick Project.

Kirk Higbee explained the difference between straw bricks and adobe bricks. He talked about the thermal flywheel effect and how it benefits structures by holding energy and releasing cooling energy or warming energy into a structure, as it is needed, and dispersing energy that is not used back outside.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Commissioner Portnoy inquired about how the Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian house that was displayed on Civic Center Mall at one time compares to adobe construction. Mr. Higbee speculated that the structure was constructed of a pumice creek-type material that was popular into the 1970s. Pumice materials absorb water and are not a good construction material.

Mr. Lopach said that discussions are underway with the Public Works Department about using the bricks in capital projects such as shade structures at WestWorld, City park ramadas, and for benches in the Scottsdale Preserve. Director Bestgen noted that creating the bricks could be a therapeutic activity for volunteers.

Mr. Lopach said that adobe and compressed earth block are discussed in the International Building Code. He has been working with Anthony Floyd in the City’s Planning Department on construction regulations. At this time, soil will be purchased from a sand and gravel yard on the Salt River-Pima Maricopa Reservation at a cost of $2.50 per ton, making the cost of the bricks between .25 cents and .30 cents each, because with the use of volunteers, there will be no production costs. Total cost of the equipment, including equipment, molds, and shipping from India was approximately $5,500.

Commissioners had positive comments about the project and discussed the potential for someday developing a partnership with builders who could put up capital and space to mass-produce. Director Bestgen was optimistic about the opportunities that will come forward as the brick project grows.

3. **Director Reports**

Director Bestgen announced that Commissioner Campbell and the Arizona Asian American Association invited the Human Services department to participate and put out Vista del Camino Food Drive donation boxes during their event on December 1st and 2nd in Civic Center Mall.

Thanks to a project put together with Behavioral Insights Teen Scottsdale using the library database to market the Adopt-a-Family program, all 280 families were adopted in one weekend. The same process is now being used to market the Adopt-a-Senior program. He suggested using the same process to market Scottsdale Cares.

Scottsdale Police Department and Paradise Valley Police Department are teaming up with a competitive cruiser event to collect food for the food bank. Paradise Valley Police Department will host their event on November 28th at the AJ’s on Lincoln and Scottsdale Road. Scottsdale Police Department will host their event on December 1st at Safeway at Shea and Scottsdale Road.
Allie Ortega Empty Bowls is scheduled for November 28th at Scottsdale Community College. The ceremony will be held at noon. Purchase of a bowl entitles participants to a free lunch.

Commissioners are welcome to join staff in distributing Thanksgiving packages at Vista del Camino November 14th through 16th and Holiday packages December 18th through the 21st.

Director Bestgen announced that Adapted Services sent 70 athletes to the Arizona State Special Olympic Competition held October 13th and 14th. Competitors took home gold, silver, and bronze medals. He noted that City of Scottsdale Police Officers and their wives sponsor the Adapted Services Unified Bowling Team, both participating in the league and paying the $4,000 in league fees.

At this point, 275 seniors have been adopted as part of the Adopt-a-Senior program and there are approximately 42 still to be adopted. 194 of the recipients are able to pick up their packages at the senior center and 118 packages will be delivered with a visit from social workers.

4. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Commissioner Portnoy and seconded by Vic-Chair Brown, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

AYES: Chair Eng, Vice-chair Brown, Commissioners Blaine, Campbell, Hubbard and Portnoy
NAYS: None

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.