



Planning & Development Division
Planning & Economic Development Department

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Community Development Committee Meeting Summary

Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Special Virtual Meeting –Web-Ex

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Hamilton Smith called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm

Attending: Hamilton Smith, Mark Osthus, Valerie Joeckel, Theresa O’Halloran-Johnson, Steve Wick, Anthony Reed-Fuglestad, Mike Mayou, Pat Sterner

Absent: Breanna Ellison

Staff Present: Ben VanTassel, Suzanne Kelley

2. Approval of the Meeting Summary- September 22, 2020

MOTION/Second: O’Halloran-Johnson /Sterner moved to approve September 22, 2020 meeting summary. **Vote (8-0)**

3. Overview of U.S. CARES Act Supplemental Funding

Manager VanTassel provided an overview of the U.S. CARES Act that provides supplemental funding to local governments via the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. VanTassel explained the initial funding award, process, and funding outcomes of the initial allocation received in April 2020. The city is receiving a second allocation of funding and is conducting a community input process and comment period to assist with the prioritization and awarding of funds.

4. Public Hearing for Additional CARES Act Funding including ESG-CV2 & CDBG-CV3

VanTassel provided an overview of the hearing purpose. The City will be receiving an additional \$1,252,530 in ESG-CV funds and \$500,310 in CDBG-CV funds to assist with the prevention, preparation, and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All individuals attending the hearing were welcomed to speak about the current needs and use of the additional allocation.

Public Hearing Attendees:

Anthony Bonds
Cassy Burr
Elena Foshay
Alicia Kozlowski
Jordon Johnson
Lee Stuart
Pam Kramer
Sara Nelson
Will Wilson

Summarized comments include:

Anthony Bonds (Independent School District 709): Current challenges include engaging students and families and meeting their social and emotional needs. Currently there are technology infrastructure needs to properly engage all students. Most students have devices available to them, but there are some internet connectivity needs. Working to make personal connections with students continues to be a focus.

Elena Foshay (City of Duluth, Workforce Development): Closing the digital divide is still a need and public access wifi in buildings or communities is important. Continues to be an overwhelming need to connect and outreach to youth to have them engaged in school and activities.

Jordon Johnson (Lifehouse): Continuing to engage students in education and services is important. Life House continues to serve a high number of students at their location and emphasized the need for emotional/social connection for youth.

Lee Stuart (CHUM): Engagement of students remains a key need within the community. Also needed, is services to operate a 24-hour warming center and day shelter. Continue to see a need for additional shelter space in the community. Food security remains an issue. Rent vouchers are important to ensure that they can remain housed. A coordinator position is something that might be useful due to the high amount of coordination that is needed for quarantining for vulnerable people.

Pam Kramer (Duluth Local Initiatives Support Corporation): Ensure the community connects youth and families to services. Food access continues to be needed throughout the community. A community coordinator is a key need. Access to affordable housing continues to be a need. More wifi access and connectivity is needed.

Will Wilson (Lake Superior Community Health Center): LSCHC is working to provide health services out in the community and partnering with other organizations serving people to ensure health needs are met.

Sara Nelson (Generations Health Care Initiatives): Submitted written comments during the meeting stating that Generations Health Care Initiatives was partnering with Community Action Duluth and Duluth Community Schools Collaborative.

After all attendees had the opportunity to provide comment the public hearing was closed. VanTassel provided an overview of how the input would be utilized and the next steps in the process.

5. Finalize FY 2021 Application Review Preparation

Manager VanTassel and Suzanne Kelley provided an update of the application process and provided a timeline for the review of applications for FY 2021 funding.

6. Adjourn

MOTION/Second: Sterner/Mayou moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30.

Vote (8-0)