



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Planning & Development Division
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Community Development Committee Meeting Summary

Tuesday, May 28, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Room 303, Duluth City Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Roll Call

Attending- Randy Brody, Noland Makowsky, Hamilton Smith, and Patricia Sterner

Absent- Breanna Ellison, Daris Nordby, Ashley Northey, and Mark Osthus

Staff Present: Ben VanTassel, Jenn Reed Moses, and Kathy Wilson

2. Approval of Meeting Summary

MOTION/ Second: Makowsky/Sterner to approve meeting summary from April 23, 2019. **Vote (4-0)**

3. Public Hearing: FY 2019 Action Plan and Final Funding Amounts

Ben Van Tassel presented staff recommendations for final 2019 allocations. Two comments were received by email: from Community Action Duluth and Life House.

Chair Smith opened the public hearing. Brandon VanTassel from Community Action Duluth was the first to speak. He thanked the committee for the proposal of additional funding for CAD's tax site and repeated the request for \$10,000 to fund the Seeds of Success program, which would allow the farmers markets to continue through the year. VanTassel noted that Seeds of Success has also received a grant from Essentia, and handed out information on funding streams for the program. Lee Stuart from CHUM was the second to speak. She thanked the committee for their recommendations on increased funding for the Hunger Program. There were no additional speakers. The public hearing was closed.

4. Finalize Funding Recommendations

Committee Member Sterner asked why Seeds of Success was not included in the recommendations once additional funding became available. Ben VanTassel stated they were originally recommended by the Committee to have \$5000, which was removed by City Council in the original recommendations. VanTassel reminded the Committee of the 15% amount related

to public services and said that affordable food access is important. Committee Member Brody said that out of the recommendations, he feels there is a lot of public support for Neighborhood Youth Services and CAD's free tax site. He is also supportive of Seeds of Success. Committee Members Noland and Sterner also voiced support for Seeds of Success. The committee discussed how to allocate the additional \$19,000 among the applications and it was suggested to allocate as follows: an additional \$4,000 for Neighborhood Youth Services, \$3,000 for CAD's tax site, \$7,000 for Seeds of Success, \$2,000 for CHUM Hunger Project, and \$3,000 for Safe Haven.

MOTION/ Second: Makowsky/Sterner to approve the additional amounts as noted above for Public Services and made no changes to staff recommended increases for the rest of CDBG categories, HOME Investment Partnership, and Emergency Solutions Grant amounts. **Vote (4-0)**

5. Public Hearing: Community Needs

Kathy Wilson presented a summary of the community needs survey, which has received over 350 responses, and the consultations with community organizations, both of which will help determine goals and priorities for the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. A handout was provided to Committee Members with written summaries as well as survey results. Committee Member Makowsky asked about the idea of new uses for vacant lots, and Ben VanTassel described ways in which CDBG money can be used for park improvements, community garden programs, etc. Committee Member Makowsky also asked if CDBG money can be allocated to street funding, and VanTassel replied that it cannot be used for street maintenance, and total street reconstruction is often so expensive it doesn't not provide enough benefit; however, it could be possible to target funds for assessment assistance for low-income property owners, ADA improvements, and similar programs. Committee Member Makowsky noted the survey comment about homeowners being less apt to invest in properties when near blighted properties, adding that addressing blight is important.

6. Finalize Citizen Participation Plan

MOTION/ Second: Sterner/Makowsky to recommend the Citizen Participation Plan, as presented, to City Council. **Vote (4-0)**

7. Adjourn

MOTION/ Second: Makowsky/Brody to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. **Vote (4-0)**