



Planning & Development Division
Planning & Economic Development Department

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Community Development Committee Meeting Summary

Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 5:32 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Steven Wick called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm

Attending: Steven Wick (Chair), Patrice Critchley-Menor (Vice-Chair), Pat Sterner, Jen Harris

Absent: Jasmine Clark, Lavelle (AC) Kirk, David Lewis

Staff Present: Suzanne Kelley, Hannah Figgins, Jenn Moses

2. Approval of Meeting Summaries

a. Attachment: October 9, 2024

Motion to approve minutes **MOTION/Second: Sterner/Critchley-Menor Vote (4-0)**

Sterner/Critchley-Menor (5/0)

3. Overview

Chair wick reviewed the

4. Public Hearing

Safe Haven – thanked the committee, and appreciate the amount of recommended funding. Upholding these services for

Zeitgeist- committed to improving quality of life for residents on 6th ave e.

CAD- Takeisha Coon: Thanked the committee, and the city. Free tax site. 1179 tax returns filed for the year.

96.71% accuracy rate, volunteers, trained professionals. IRS funding is a dollar-for-dollar match.

CAD-Seeds of Success, Food Access Program, thanked the CD committee – today, at Rainbow Center and St

Francis where mobile market has been requested, EBT dollars matched, today overwhelmed with demand possibly due to

CAD – Zach, Seeds of Success – first year program has under Kaylas management has seen exponential growth and

Classie Dudley – CAD: These are the two less funded programs with the greatest need. Renewing their community needs assessment, last one was really about healthy food access in Lincoln park, hillside, poc's that lack the same amount of resources. People need money, and that's where the tax site comes in, bringing over 1mill back in to the community with free tax site. Needs are great and pot is small, but they are grateful for what they can get.

Jason Beckman – SOAR: Thanked the commission – merged with TrueNorth Goodwill, due to their need for the programs that SOAR offers. Trains people in health care system, child care training. Poverty is getting harder, they come to their office with more barriers than ever before. Flexible funds Connecting job seekers with jobs in the community.

Chester Bowl: Dave Scheafer: thanked committee – please keep funding at that level – the fall fest welcomed 11,000 people in one day. 125 school age campers each day. Lift lines serve 1,800 skiers snowboarders on the hill. Season passes are \$85. Serves as prima \$12,700 in scholarships for child care in summer time. The timing is important – Spring of 2026. They will develop the building with the funding they have available. Provide summer childcare to anyone regardless of income.

Family Freedom Center: The kids are really excited about the programs – 3D printing, making clothing, making soap, doing nails, planning businesses. Two Microbusinesses started since Kaliaope started in the position 6 months ago. Press on nail sets, jewelry makers, talented artists, tie-dying, knitting, sewing. Asking for the investment in our youth.

YWCA – Beth Burt: Thanked committees – appreciate the commitment of dollars for young moms and their children.

FFC: Lanya – doing her own business for two years making lip glosses. Saw on social media, when she started coming to the center, Kaliaope said she could help her get better and she's been helping her a lot. Started making her own nails too. Making drawings, selling them, and that's when it started all coming together; her mom has been making signs for her products, and she's been getting emails with product requests.

FFC: Akeia – she's been going to the FFC for two months, two words: progressive and accessible. Cultural diversity makes her feel included in Duluth. Not exclusive. She registered her business with the help of FFC. Helps kids develop life skills, developing a greater quality of life. FFC provides a safe space for the youth, where they can invest in themselves. They have more spaces where other people could come in

John Cole: nonprofits are facing unprecedented financial challenges. Star Tribune reported that there are a decline in donations, and

Jim Philbin:

Life House: Jason Malmquist – Futures Program director – employment case management, transitional employment program, post-employment support. Professional skills. Transportation, childcare. GED was big last year. Graduation rates

Jordan – Life House: thanked the room of agencies. Last year served 10,000 meals. The importance of meeting basic needs. Safe place for youth to hangout.

Green New Deal Housing: Melissa – Director. Green workforce training program, recommendation for \$10,000 will contribute to the program's ability to expand workforce training program. Specifically working with those with barriers to employment, training in green construction, OSHA 10 cert, First Aid/CPR, multi-craft core credential curriculum. Working closely with . Our region struggles with a lack of labor that is qualified to do the work of green housing and building in general. Climate change, extreme weather.

FFC: Lazaia – Zayana – a young entrepreneur, Zayana sweet treats, so she has a way to make money to do nails, and the start program – homeless at beginning of the year, FFC took her and her children in without any judgement, opened a bank account with help from FFC. Started her own LLC, registered in MN, meeting more people she can work with, presented it at a local event and works on her entrepreneurship each day.

FFC: Zach, actor, model, musician, entrepreneur, having the resources available is so important for the kids, a music program, already had their art mixer, poetry film, music, arts and crafts, helped him meet new people.

Annie's House – Deyona Kirk: Thanked the commission for taking a chance on Annie's House homeownership program. What can the agencies do to help increase the HUD pot.

A young mom could only afford older homes that need lots of expensive repairs. Housing stock in Duluth is too old, and makes it more difficult for people to build generation wealth.

FFC: retiree just introduced to FFC recently, currently setting up programs, entrepreneur for 30 years in Duluth. Recording studio start. After school stuff, FFC will use any funding very well

FFC Cashmere: Thanked the commissioners, the speakers from today represent just a sliver of what the full program is all about. There is so much more that is happening and

Wick ended public comment, written comments will still be accepted.

5. Next Steps

Sterner noted the importance of recognizing the increasing costs of everything that the agencies provide to our community members

6. HOME ARP Review and Recommendations

Staff member Hannah Figgins reviewed the recommended HOME-ARP funding amounts. The public hearing will be held at the next meeting, but the required review time is 15 days, rather than 30 days that is required for the Action Plan. More than likely the HOME ARP will be presented to City Council at an earlier meeting than the Action Plan.

Adjourn 6:49 pm (Next meeting, November 19, 2024)

MOTION/Second: Lewis/Critchley-Menor/Critchley-Menor/Harris **Vote (4-0)**