



Planning & Development Division
Planning & Economic Development Department

Room 160
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802



218-730-5580



planning@duluthmn.gov

Community Development Committee Meeting Summary

Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Wick called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm

Attending: Steven Wick (Chair), Patrice Critchley-Menor (Vice-Chair), Pat Sterner, Jasmine Clark, David Lewis

Absent: Lavelle (AC) Kirk

Staff Present: Phillis Webb, Hannah Figgins, Jenn Moses

2. Approval of October 22, 2024 Meeting Summary

Meeting MOTION/**Second**: Sterner/ Critchley-Menor **(5-0)**

3. Overview of Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

Chair Wick went over the Action Plan and Public Comment process. He also stated that the public comment period opened a bit ago. There will be no decision tonight, and decisions will be made at the December 3rd.

4. Public Hearing on FY 2024 Annual Action Plan & Funding Recommendations

(All attendees will have 3 minutes to address the committee.)

Ethan Pousus from Safe Haven Thanks the commission for the continual funding that has been received. They also talked about their shelter program and helping people in the need to domestic violence. In human services there is an endless need.

Tony from Zeitgeist stated that he thanks the commission on the work that will be done. Also, that the continual work on roads is always important.

Takeesha Coon and Zach from CAD thanked the commission on their work. They also talked about their work that they are doing at the tax free site. They currently have an audit showing that they have over 1,000 successful tax returns completed. The funds that are received each year help them tremendously.

Kayla and Zach from CAD stated that the funding that they may receive from their seeds of success will be very important with the demand they are receiving and projected to have. Classey Dudley the director stated that the two programs stated above are two of the programs they have that are less funded. The importance of food access and money has been the top needs that they have been seeing with the BIPOC communities.

Jason Beckman from Goodwill/SOAR stated the merge they have had with Goodwill. Their high demand living wage program aligns well with the city plan. Poverty is becoming harder, and that's why the funds received helps with the barriers.

Dave Schaffer from Chester Bowl went over the statistical data of individuals and families visiting the park. They are stated that their affordable child care spoke to the need of the city. The funding is important because it helps with leveraging funds, and having access to additional funds. They hope to get all the funding, but if they don't, they will construct with the funds they get.

Calliope from Family Freedom Center talked about the projects they work with the children, including sewing, 3d printing, nails, jewelry, drawings, soap, tie-dye, knitting etc. they also have the youth doing home micro-businesses. The funds would be to provide start up cost for the entrepreneurs. They are removing the barriers of the cities. Laniah Williams (who is an entrepreneur) is one of the children who works in the program and talked about the things she has made and presented them to the commission. Akiah Shipmen is a community member who talked about the progression and accessibility of FFC. It is a safe and productive place. She is also a entrepreneur as well, and was able to register her business. She said the children are building skills that they can use later on in life. Zaiana also talked about her businesses she does, Laziah Williams also talked about working in the start program and their story, including using their services, registering her LLC and opening up a bank account. Zach, a community member stated that they have helped him with workshop series, an art mixer, and community drives. A community member also talked about how he is also helping the children in the recording studio.

Beth Berth from YWCA talked about the program is transitioning but the funds are still being used to help moms and invest in support services. They are working with Divine Konnections and it is working well.

John Cole from CHUM stated that the pot for nonprofits is getting harder and harder to get due to declining donations. There is an increase in needs of services each year, and they have seen dramatic increases. He hopes that there will be a way to bring more money into Duluth in the next 5 years.

Jim Philbin from One Roof talked on the two programs that they run and get funding for. He also stated the statistical data that they have had accomplished in the previous year. He also stated that some of their funding will be cut in the next coming year. The funding greatly helps leverage their funds.

Jason from Life House thanked them for the recommended amount that they previously received. Programs included helping look at colleges, FASFA, high school and credit recovery, soft skills, hard employment skills, YES Duluth assessments, etc. They have also started a business for the teens with making soaps. They also try to work through all of the barriers. There were 15 GED's accomplished. Jordan from Life House thanked the commission, and how they have continued to serve two meals a day.

Malissa from Green New Deal talked about what the funding and the training will offer the individuals in the program. She listed off all of the credentials recognized through the state and nationally that they will have with completion of the program. Their goal is to help them have the skill set for the future of climate change.

Deyonna Kirk from Divine Konnections thanked the commission for taking a chance on them and how they are going to be working on their phase 2 and working on phase 3 as well with duplexes and being landlords.

The commission shared appreciation for the applicants/agencies. Sterner noted the importance of recognizing the increasing costs of everything that the agencies provide to our community members, and suggested that the Committee have a discussion with staff in the New Year about ways to address the challenge and need for additional funding.

5. Next Steps

Chair Wick explained that the recommendations for the 2025 Action Plan will be reviewed and voted upon at the December 3rd, 2024 meeting. That meeting will be where if there is a need to be any adjustments, it will be made during that meeting. Afterwards, the recommendations would be presented by the CD Committee to City Council in January.

6. Adjourn

MOTION/Second: Lewis/ Critchley-Menor **(5-0)**

Next Meeting: December 3rd, 2024