



Human Services Commission Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA October 6, 2021 - 7 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Carlucci.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Mary Jane Bedegi, Harshkumar Gohil, Susan Hayes, Meera Parikh, Patty Powers, and Vice Chairperson Joe Carlucci.

Commissioners Absent: Kelsey Lem, Mike Sedlak, and Chairperson Janine Rubino-Brumm.

Staff Present: Jay Ingram, Recreation Manager, Michele Grose, Assistant Director of Library and Recreation; Matt Gruber, Landscape Architect; Zack Silva, Recreation Supervisor, and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Mr. Ingram asked that the following items be added to the agenda:

- 1) Information regarding AB361, and
- 2) After Matters Before the Commission an item entitled Communications

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of September 1, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes, seconded by Commissioner Powers, to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2021. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Public comment from the audience regarding items not listed on the agenda

None.

Information was provided regarding AB361 suspending provisions of the Brown Act allowing meetings via teleconferencing and members of the public observing and offering comments telephonically or electronically. It was noted that once a meeting has begun members of the public may participate in the Zoom meeting by using the “raise your hand” function on Zoom, or pressing the *6 on their phone, when public comment is opened on the agenda item. The speaker will be unmuted when their name is called, and they will be re-muted after the allotted time.

MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION’S REVIEW/ACTION/INFORMATION

3. Consider Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2022/23 Housing and Human Services Grant Program Statement of Priorities and Evaluation Criteria

Mr. Ingram advised that annually the Human Services Commission considers and develops priorities for the Housing and Human Services Grant (HHSG) Program and during the HHSG application process agencies are asked to identify how their project proposal identifies at least one each of the priority needs and service delivery areas that are identified in the needs assessment and strategic plan.

Mr. Ingram reviewed with commissioners the Draft Statement of Priorities for FY 2022/23 and asked them to consider the Priority Needs and Service Delivery areas and discuss whether any modifications or changes should be made. He also reviewed with commissioners the Human Services Commission Evaluation Criteria for Review of Housing and Human Services Grant Program Applications for FY2022/23 document and asked they also provide comment.

Commissioner Bedegi asked about priorities not listed such as veterans and hygiene products and whether these are considered subsets of other already listed priorities, she also questioned the intent of the priority listed as Service Provider Critical Initiatives.

Vice Chairperson Carlucci questioned whether there would be any advantages to specifically calling out veteran’s groups. Mr. Ingram felt that should be a recommendation made by the commission.

Commissioner Bedegi felt questioned whether the word “innovation” should be added to one of the bullets under the Service Delivery areas. Commissioner Hayes agreed this was a recommendation that should be considered by the commission.

Commissioner Bedegi felt that since the agencies would be basing their applications on criteria listed in program details it would be important for them to illustrate how they are being innovative.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of changing verbiage to include the word “innovation.” Commissioner Bedegi suggested adding the word to the first bullet under Service Delivery. Commissioner Hayes noted that innovation sometimes refers to a new project for an agency and many of the nonprofits have already used innovation for their projects. Commissioner Parikh indicated she was having difficulty trying to understand the terms for the inclusion of the word “innovation” and whether it would be speaking to new projects.

Commissioner Hayes had concerns about using wording that would allow the project of an agency to fall into a generalized option and Commissioner Powers agreed. Commissioner Bedegi felt a change could be made to allow prioritizing funding towards innovative projects. Commissioner Hayes felt agencies barely received sufficient funding to complete projects without needing to be innovative and she was struggling with where this word could be added.

Commissioner Hayes discussed the difficulties that many agencies have had to face during the past year in trying to figure ways of reaching everyone in need and being able to provide basic services. Commissioner Bedegi felt the agencies had to be innovative in terms of figuring out how to address the pandemic. Commissioner Hayes did not want innovation to become the priority of everything and dissuade agencies from applying for funding. To Commissioner Bedegi’s point Vice Chairperson Carlucci felt agencies needed to be innovative all the time.

Mr. Ingram asked if the commission wished to make any changes to the last paragraph of the Statement of Priorities. It was suggested by Commissioner Hayes that CityServe be added as an organization that agencies are required to register with as a condition of receiving HHSG funds. Commissioner Bedegi questioned the purpose of having the agencies register and Mr. Ingram provided information and felt adding CityServe would be an additional resource connection for the Tri-Valley area.

Vice Chairperson Carlucci asked if adding CityServe as a place for agencies to register would be a conflict of interest since CityServe also applied for HHSG funding. Commissioner Hayes noted that Alameda County 2-1-1 is also one of the organizations asked to be a registration portal and they receive City’s funds as well. Mr. Ingram provided information about funding received by 2-1-1 and suggested CityServe be added as a place for agencies to register with a caveat added to the motion that it be allowed if CityServe can accommodate and fulfill the requirements.

Mr. Ingram confirmed with commissioners that the Statement of Priorities was acceptable except for the last paragraph reading “In addition, agencies will be required to register with Alameda County 2-1-1, Ptownlife.org, and CityServe as a condition of receiving Housing and Human Services Grant Funds”. He indicated he would contact CityServe to confirm they agree with being added as a contact for agencies to register.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gohil, seconded by Vice Chairperson Carlucci, to approve the Human Services Commission Statement of Priorities for FY 2022/23 for the Housing and Human Services Grant (HHSG) Program with the following change to the last paragraph: “In addition, agencies will be required to register with Alameda County 2-1-1,

Ptownlife.org, and CityServe as a condition of receiving Housing and Human Services Grant Funds” with the understanding that CityServe agrees to this and if not, the paragraph will remain unchanged.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Bedegi, Gohill, Hayes, Parikh, and Vice Chairperson Carlucci.
NOES: Commissioner Powers.
ABSENT: Commissioner Lem, Sedlak, and Chairperson Rubino-Brumm.
ABSTAIN: None.

Commissioners then reviewed with Mr. Ingram the Human Services Commission Evaluation Criteria for Review of Housing and Human Services Grant Program (HHSG) Applications for FY 2022/23.

Commissioner Parikh commented on item B) Benefit, item 4 that stated, “The activity/service benefits deteriorated neighborhoods” and stated she did not recall “deteriorated neighborhoods” being something indicated in the document previously. Mr. Ingram advised this verbiage was used for past years.

Commissioner Hayes commented on very-low-income residences being in deteriorated neighborhoods and to this point Vice Chairperson Carlucci felt using “impacted” instead of “deteriorated” would be a better word to use in this item.

Vice Chairperson Carlucci asked if any other commissioners had any other comments and receiving no response noted the only change to this document would be to change the word “deteriorated” in B4 to “impacted”.

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Carlucci, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, recommending approval of the Human Services Commission Evaluation Criteria for Review of Housing and Human Services Grant Program (HHSG) Applications for FY 2022/23 with the following change to item B) Benefit #4 “The Activity/service benefits ~~deteriorated~~ **impacted** neighborhoods”.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Bedegi, Gohill, Hayes, Parikh, Powers and Vice Chairperson Carlucci.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: Commissioner Lem, Sedlak, and Chairperson Rubino-Brumm.
ABSTAIN: None.

Commissioner Bedegi discussed with Mr. Ingram the review an approval process for grants. He advised that staff is determining dates for the mandatory meetings but typically they are early in December.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ingram indicated he had four announcements to present:

- 1) County Food Distribution – at the beginning of the pandemic food serving organizations in the Tri-Valley had talks with the Alameda County Food Bank and shared with them food insecurities in the Tri-Valley, because of these communications Alameda County Food Bank has worked with Open Heart Kitchen and Tri-Valley Haven to establish a Tuesday-Thursday distribution of food at Alameda County Fairgrounds. With events now returning to the Fairgrounds a new location for the food distribution needs to be found, Open Heart Kitchen (OHK) has temporarily been making distributions from the Senior Center and till the end of December will be distributing from the Workday parking lot.
- 2) The Alameda County Point-in-Time count is scheduled for January 25, 2022.
- 3) CityServe of the Tri-Valley has been able to work on an agreement to have a small office in the Pleasanton Senior Center and will retain their space on the second floor at Inklings.
- 4) Staff will forward an email to commissioners with information to share with friends about an organization looking for kitchen supplies needed for Afghan refugees placed in the Bay Area.

Commissioner Hayes provided information about a retired Safeway executive who has been collaborating with veterans and on special projects including an “adopt a family” project.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.
