



Human Services Commission Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA March 2, 2022 - 6 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chairperson Carlucci.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Mary Jane Bedegi, Susan Hayes, Kelsey Lem, Meera Parikh, Patty Powers, Janeen Rubino-Brumm and Chairperson Joe Carlucci

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Jay Ingram, Recreation Manager; Steve Hernandez, Housing Manager; Zack Silva, Recreation Supervisor, and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. **Approve regular meeting minutes of February 2, 2022.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bedegi, seconded by Commissioner Powers, to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Spectrum Community Services – Carrie Oldes – provided information about the anniversary of the Spectrum program and the parade taking place this evening in Dublin. She also invited commissioners to participate in a ride-along the week of March 21 and attend the Twilight Tasting event at the Page Mill in Livermore from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. March 3.

MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION’S REVIEW/ACTION/INFORMATION

3. Review and Allocate Housing and Human Services Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2022/23 and Recommend City Council Approval

Mr. Ingram provided background information regarding the recommendation for allocation of Housing and Human Services Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2022/23 by the Human Services Commission to City Council.

Commissioners were advised by Mr. Ingram that a total of twenty-eight applications were received by the January 19, 2022 deadline with a total of \$1,382,891 in funding being requested. Twenty of the applications are being considered by the Human Services Commission and the other eight applications by the Housing Commission because they are housing related requests.

Mr. Ingram further advised commissioners that a total of \$458,207 is available for them to consider allocating, \$266,679 from CDBG funds and \$188,528 from City General Funds. He advised that grant applications include three from new agencies and one for a new project.

Mr. Hernandez provided details about the applicants and applications to be reviewed by the Housing Commission. Commissioner Powers asked for additional details about Habitat for Humanity and whether this organization was building homes in Pleasanton. Mr. Hernandez provided information about the work Habitat does in Pleasanton.

Chairperson Carlucci opened the meeting for agency presentations at 6:21 p.m.

Culinary Angels – Lisa McNaney – provided information about the organization and the organic meals and support they provide to people going through cancer. Ms. McNaney noted this was the first time the organization was applying for funding and the \$5,000 they have requested would be used to rebuild their website to better provide information about the organization and what they are able to provide. She advised that Culinary Angels is the only organization that provides such aid with no cost to those who need the services. Ms. McNaney advised that the organization currently works out of the Sunflower Hill facility.

Commissioner Bedegi asked about other sources of income for the organization and Ms. McNaney advised that funding comes from other grants and private donations.

Chairperson Carlucci confirmed that funds were being requested for updating the website and the organization is receiving food from other organizations. He also had questions about who was referring clients to Culinary Angels. Ms. McNaney confirmed funding was for updating the website and advised Culinary Angels representatives would be at the Farmers Market weekend

providing education to people about the program, she also advised that clients come to the organization from the Kaiser Cancer Center, Stanford Health Care and by word-of-mouth. Ms. McNaney advised that Culinary Angels currently provides about thirty meals per week.

Commissioner Rubino-Brumm questioned if there were income requirements for people to receive meals and Ms. McNaney advised there are no requirements and anyone going through a cancer challenge is welcome to receive the meals.

Hiveley - Vanessa Dilks – advised that Hively is a multi-faceted agency with many clients below the poverty line. Ms. Dilks provided information about the services the agency provides and how they are helping families who are having to make tough decisions. Commissioners were provided information about the new Hively Resource Center opened in Dublin that will provide those in need a one-stop shop opportunity to be able to obtain the things they need with all resources being provided free of charge.

Commissioner Powers was advised by Ms. Dilks that the new Dublin location was an additional office for Hively, and that the agency is having discussions about opening a new one in Livermore.

Chairperson Carlucci asked about the difference between this new Resource Center program and other programs offered by Hively and the use of the funding requested. Ms. Dilks advised that funding is needed to pay salaries to keep programs going and being able to offer all programs at one location.

Commissioner Bedegi asked for details about the Dublin location and where Hively will now be providing their diaper service and was advised that the location is on Village Parkway in Dublin.

Lions Blind Center of Diablo Valley – Yolanda Braxton – advised that the organization supports people with vision loss, especially senior citizens, by trying to increase the quality of life for those who are blind or sight impaired. Ms. Braxton commented on services provided by the organization and making sure people are not alone and are kept engaged and remain a part of a community. She advised that services are free.

Commissioner Bedegi asked about the organization's relationship with the Lions Club and what funding they have done in the past. Ms. Braxton provided details about the support and relationship they have with Lions, the CDBG funding they receive from Contra Costa County and donations other foundations and corporations.

Commissioner Rubino-Brumm was advised by Ms. Braxton that referrals are received from doctors, hospitals, other organizations, and Social Services.

Chairperson Carlucci was provided details by Ms. Braxton and the Lions Club District 4 and the area it covers.

Chairperson Carlucci closed the meeting for agency presentations at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Ingram advised commissioners that representatives from other agencies were available to answer questions. He then reviewed Attachment 1 for Item 3 that outlined the staff recommended funding allocations for the Human Services funding requests.

Mr. Hernandez provided Commissioner Bedegi with information about the 15% CDBG cap amount and the formula used by HUD, noting that the actual amount has not yet been provided to the city by HUD which means the funding available could change. He also provided information on why agencies received full funding from the City of Pleasanton for the prior year.

Commissioner Bedegi asked Mr. Ingram to comment on why staff was not recommending funding for the three agencies indicated. Mr. Ingram commented on low rankings these agencies received from commissioners when considered on Zoomgrants, potential duplication of services, and amount of funds already committed for the programs.

Commissioners agreed to consider each of the applications and ask questions of agency representatives when necessary.

Axis Community Health – Sue Compton

Mr. Ingram discussed with commissioners the Axis Community Health capital project and their request being for \$200,000 but \$214,474 being the amount staff recommend. He commented on capital funds remaining and the determination to award all of those to Axis since there were no other agencies requesting funds for capital projects.

Ms. Compton provided Commissioner Powers with information about the new service site advising the Axis hopes to finalize details on the property by July 1 and if everything falls into place expect renovations to take about 18 months.

Culinary Angels – Lisa McNaney

Commissioner Hayes felt Culinary Angels was an amazing program and encouraged them to contact the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance as an alternative for funding should they not receive HHSF funds.

Open Heart Kitchen – Denise Bridges

No questions from the commission.

Spectrum Community Services – Carries Oldes

No questions from the commission.

Tri-Valley Haven (Food Pantry) – Christine Dillman

Ms. Dillman advised the Tri-Valley Haven opened the new food pantry February 22 and a celebration is planned for March 17.

No questions from the commission.

Commissioner Rubino-Brumm asked agency representatives not to be offended if they were not being asked questions from the commission, that it was because commissioners are already

familiar with their organization. Chairperson Carlucci agreed and Commissioner Bedegi noted that many questions had been answered in the applications that commissioners had reviewed.

Tri-Valley Haven (Shiloh Domestic Violence Shelter) – Christine Dillman
No questions from the commission.

Tri-Valley Haven (Sojourner House Homeless Shelter) – Christine Dillman
No questions from the commission.

CALICO Center
No questions from the commission.

Legal Assistance for Seniors – Greg Bedard
Commissioner Rubino-Brumm discussed with Mr. Bedard the difficulty of using Zoom for providing services to senior citizens. Mr. Bedard commented on the difficulty but advised they have been able to provide services and education to seniors both via Zoom and in-person, though they are still using technology for providing most services. He noted that as progression takes place with the court system, they will be able to change how they provide services.

Commissioner Hayes discussed the collaboration the agency has with other services and questioned if they were anticipating an increase in the need for their services. Mr. Bedard advised they are already beginning to see an increase and are concerned that there will be an increase for housing need services when things begin to open after COVID. He advised that the agency is trying to be resilient, and attorneys are trying to collaborate with seniors on technology issues.

Commissioner Bedegi asked about the twenty-five Pleasanton residents served the previous year and if Legal Assistance anticipates that number increasing. Mr. Bedard stated they hoped to see an increase, but much depends on the types of services and amount of time required to assist people.

Tri-Valley Haven (Counseling and Legal Services) – Christine Dillman
No questions from the commission.

Sunflower Hill (2 programs) – Pamela Zielske
No questions from the commission.

Assistance League of Amador Valley – Denise Barr
Ms. Barr wanted to inform the commission that there program was not duplicative of what is offered by Hively and provides a number of different services and programs for students.

Commissioner Powers was advised by Ms. Barr that the Assistance League receives funds from the City of Pleasanton, corporation grants, North Pleasanton Rotary, Livermore Rotary, and other businesses.

Commissioners Hayes questioned if they worked with Agave Village and was advised no.

Commissioner Rubino-Brumm was advised by Ms. Barr that most of the Pleasanton residents they serve are from Valley View School.

Chabot-LP/One-Stop Career Center (2 programs) – Sarah Holtzclaw

Commissioner Power questioned if the organization had seen a greater need for their services because of COVID. Ms. Holtzclaw advised fewer people have been seen and request has been for lower paying jobs.

Commissioner Bedegi was advised by Ms. Holtzclaw that the EITC program is a Vita program and she encouraged commissioners to stop by and visit to see what they are doing.

CityServe of the Tri-Valley – Christine Beitsch and Margaretann Fortner

No questions from commissioners.

Hively (2 Programs) – Vanessa Dilks

No questions from commissioners.

Hope Hospice – Jennifer Pettley

Commissioner Bedegi asked about a \$5M bank account number she noticed when reviewing the agency's application on ZoomGrants. She questioned if this was correct and if so, what those funds are designated for and why they needed to raise more funds. Additionally, she asked about the organization's capital expenditures. Ms. Pettley advised she was unaware of \$5M and would need to check. She provided information about programs provided by Hope Hospice and the agency's lease of several floors in a Dublin facility and salaries for administrative staff.

Lions Blind Center of Diablo Valley – Yolanda Braxton

No questions from commissioners.

Chairperson Carlucci suggested commissioners consider the staff funding recommendations and determine the changes they would like to make.

Commissioners Powers commented on one the Tri-Valley Haven projects only having served two Pleasanton residents in the past year. Ms. Dillman discussed how the Shiloh program varies each year because of the need and discussed the services provided. She noted that some years the number of people served is greater than others, but it is a very vital service that Tri-Valley Haven provides.

Commissioner Powers questioned if the services being provided are different from those provided by Shepherds Gate and Ms. Dillman advised it is a safe place that also takes teenage boys and families, they have a 24-hr hot line with an advocate.

Commissioner Bedegi was informed by Ms. Dillman that approximately 240 people were served during the past year, half of which were children. She also advised Mr. Ingram that the agency does take people from other area but tries to remain available for local people and work with

other shelters because of safety issues. Additionally, Ms. Dillman commented on the assistance provided to clients.

Commissioners discussed with Ms. Dillman services provided to Pleasanton residents and how Tri-Valley Haven prioritizes the services needed.

Commissioner Hayes asked commissioners to revisit the staff recommendation for Hope Hospice, not on the services they provide but on the earlier comment made regarding the amount of funds they have in the bank. She indicated she would like to learn more about this, and Commissioner Bedegi wondered if the funds were for something special.

Commissioner Rubino-Brumm stated she would like more funds to be allocated for the Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry program and Commissioner Powers wondered if Tri-Valley Haven would be willing to take funds from one of their other programs. Ms. Dillman indicated that Tri-Valley Haven would prefer that funds remain as recommended by staff.

Commissioner Bedegi commented on the increase in funding requested by Tri-Valley Haven for their food pantry program and Commissioner Rubino-Brumm discussed the increase in food prices that many families are experiencing.

Chairperson Carlucci asked if commissioners wished to reconsider any other staff funding recommendations and Commissioner Bedegi felt the numbers for Chabot-LP programs was low and the programs they provide were critical.

Commissioner Powers felt consideration should be given to providing some funding for the Assistance League.

Commissioner Hayes stated that she agreed with the recommendation made by Commissioner Rubino-Brumm to increase the funding amount for the Tri-Valley Haven's food pantry program. Commissioner Powers felt the Tri-Valley Haven food pantry program was more important than the Assistance League program and Commissioner Bedegi questioned if funds could be taken from other agencies to fund both and suggested decreasing the funding recommended for Hope Hospice.

Commissioner Rubino-Brumm was advised by Mr. Ingram that it was staff's recommendation that funding be kept to a minimum of \$5,000 per grant and Commissioner Hayes felt small funding amounts may not help the agencies in executing their programs.

Commissioner Rubino-Brumm suggested allocating \$2,500 to both the Assistance League and Hope Hospice and Commissioner Powers agreed. Commissioner Hayes also agreed with the suggestion but indicated she would also like to increase the amount for the Chabot-LP EITC Support Program.

Commissioner Bedegi was concerned that the information she had commented on regarding the bank balance of Hope Hospice may be incorrect. She suggested taking \$1,000 from one of the

Hively projects and allocating it to the Chabot-LP EITC program. Commissioner Rubino-Brum thought \$1,000 could also be taken from Open Heart Kitchen.

Ms. Pettley suggested she report back to the commission after she has been able to learn more about the \$5M that Commissioner Bedegi commented on. She noted that Hope Hospice is a Medicare certified agency and provide many services for which they are not reimbursed. Mr. Ingram discussed information that agencies are required to provide when requesting funds and that the audit provided by Hope Hospice indicated an amount of \$4.9M.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubino-Brumm, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, recommending City Council approve the following Human Service grant fund allocations for fiscal year 2022/23:

\$214,474	Axis Community Health – Capital Project
0	Culinary Angels – Nutrition Education
\$ 50,000	Open Heart Kitchen – Pleasanton Senior Meals
\$ 43,733	Spectrum Community Services – Pleasanton Meals on Wheels
\$ 21,000	Tri-Valley Haven – Food Pantry
\$ 8,000	Tri-Valley Haven – Shiloh Domestic Violence Shelter
\$ 7,000	Tri-Valley Haven – Sojourner House Homeless Shelter
\$ 5,000	CALICO Center – Pleasanton Child Abuse Intervention Program
\$ 5,000	Legal Assistance for Seniors – Legal & Supportive Services for Older Adults
\$ 7,000	Tri-Valley Haven – Counseling and Legal Services
\$ 5,000	Sunflower Hill – Irby Ranch Program Support
\$ 5,000	Sunflower Hill – Program for Adults with Developmental Disabilities
\$ 2,500	Assistance League of Amador Valley – Operation School Bell
\$ 5,000	Chabot-LP/TV One Step Career Center – Pleasanton Community Jobs Support
\$ 6,000	Chabot-LP/TV One Step Career Center – Pleasanton EITC Support Program
\$ 58,000	CityServe of the Tri-Valley – Homeless Prevention and Family Stabilization
\$ 5,000	Hively – Community Engagement Coordinator
\$ 8,000	Hively – Family Resource Center
\$ 2,500	Hope Hospice – Grief Support and Volunteer Services
0	Lions Blind Center – Independent Living Skills for Visually Impaired

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Bedegi, Hayes, Lem, Parikh, Powers, Rubino-Brum, and Chairperson Carlucci

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

4 Review and Comment on the 2021 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report

Mr. Ingram reviewed the report with commissions who agreed it was a very good report.

Commissioner Bedegi commented on the thirty laptops that the library made available for checkout and the number of times they were checked out. She questioned how long an individual was able to keep the computer checked out. Mr. Ingram indicated he did not have an answer but would investigate and report back to the commission. He also noted that the computer loan program did not start until late in 2021. Commissioner Bedegi felt it was a great program but would like more details.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION

None

COMMISSION REPORTS

No reports available.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

Mr. Ingram thanked commissioners for the careful way they managed the difficult grant allocation item and Chairperson Carlucci stated it was an honor to work with such a great commission and staff.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Commissioner Bedegi questioned whether the city was considering restarting events such First Wednesday and Mr. Ingram stated he has not heard anything about this. Commissioner Rubino-Brumm noted that the city has plans to close Main Street to traffic the first weekend of each month beginning in May. Commissioner Powers also advised that the First Wednesday events were organized by the Pleasanton Downtown Association.

Commissioner Hayes suggested Mr. Ingram reach out to Kathy Young at the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance to do a presentation for the commission and thought presentations from other nonprofits could be on the horizon. Other members of the commission agreed.

Commissioner Powers provided information about having cooked for Culinary Angels and delivery food for them and appreciated that Commissioner Hayes had suggested they contact the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance.

Chairperson Carlucci discussed the importance of having speakers present at commission meetings and commissioners being able to make in-person visits to agencies.

Commissioner Bedegi provided details about her tour of Goodness Village.

Commissioner Rubino-Brumm provided details about the Chamber of Commerce Mixer event scheduled for 5 p.m., April 13 at the One-Stop Career Center on Owens Drive and Commissioner Bedegi reconfirmed that March 21st was the date for the ride-along with Spectrum.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 6, 2022
