



Human Services Commission Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA May 4, 2022 - 7 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairperson Carlucci.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Governor Newsom's proclaimed State of Emergency due to Covid-19 and Executive Order N-25-20 suspending provisions of the Brown Act and allowing meetings via teleconferencing and members of the public to observe and offer comments telephonically or electronically was read by Chairperson Carlucci.

Roll Call

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

Commissioners Absent: Susan Hayes and Kelsey Lem.

Staff Present: Jay Ingram, Recreation Manager; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MINUTES

1. Approve regular meeting minutes of April 6, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Powers, seconded by Commissioner Bedegi, to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2022 meeting. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

Mr. Ingram acknowledged the service of Kelsey Lem as the youth members of the commission and advised that as a graduating senior in high school her term on the commission has ended. He then introduced Kirsten Litz and Melanie Hayes advising they are new members to the commission but since they have not yet been sworn-in they are attending the meeting to observe and will join everyone at the June meeting.

Spectrum Community Services, Meals on Wheels Presentation – Carrie Oldes, Meals on Wheels Program Manager – She advised that as the Program Manager for Spectrum Community Services she oversees the day-to-day operation of Meals on Wheels in the Tri-Valley. Spectrum has three paid staff members and many volunteers to help meals provided to senior citizens in need.

Ms. Oldes reviewed with commissioners a PowerPoint presentation that provided details about the organization's partnerships with Stanford Healthcare - Valley Care that allows for Spectrum to provide hot meals and medically tailored meals to over one hundred home bound Pleasanton seniors every month.

Commissioners were advised by Ms. Oldes that Meals on Wheels is more than a meal service because volunteers delivering meals provide wellness checks on those receiving meals. She noted that a number of youth groups participate by delivering meals with their parents and providing craft items to the seniors for birthdays and special occasions.

Ms. Oldes noted that many seniors receiving meals live alone and receiving a meal is the only companionship they receive, and this service helps with them overcoming loneliness and isolation. She discussed the cost of each meal being approximately \$10.00 with administration costs being included and senior donation for meals being about \$1.25.

Information was provided by Ms. Oldes about the ninety routes per week that are operated in the Tri-Valley area by Meals on Wheels with 435 meals a week being distributed in Pleasanton. She noted that to date approximately 8,300 volunteer hours have been provided with over 3,000 of them being the delivery of meals in Pleasanton.

Commissioners were provided details about the Meals Champion Week, Dynamics of Meals on Wheels and the mealsonwheels@spectrumcs.org website to register as a volunteer. Ms. Oldes advised that Meals on Wheels is a need-based programs and commissioners should encourage citizens to apply for the program. She noted that donations to help should be made directly to spectrumcs.org.

Chairperson Carlucci thanked Ms. Oldes for her presentation.

Commissioner Bedegi asked Ms. Oldes to comment on other sources of funding that Spectrum received. Ms. Oldes advised that grants are written for anything possible, and funds have been

received from the Madden Foundation and Rotary. She discussed writing an RFP to the County of Alameda and the possibility of soon being able to do in-person fundraising.

Commissioner Powers confirmed with Ms. Oldes that it was best to write donation checks directly to Spectrum. Ms. Oldes advised that only 17% of donated funds are received from the county.

Commissioner Rubino-Brumm questioned whether meals were also being delivered on weekends and Ms. Oldes advised that only about 35% of participants in the program receive a weekend meal and they are taken a frozen meal on Thursday or Friday that requires heating. She discussed 'mercy meals' that are additional meals that can be provided to people who like to eat two meals a day or need an extra meal for the weekend.

Commissioner Power advised that she sometimes volunteers and drives for about 2-hours a day to deliver meals for Spectrum and finds it extremely rewarding and the meals are much appreciated by the recipients. Ms. Oldes encouraged commissioners to book a ride with Spectrum to learn more about how the program operates and they will find it rewarding. She indicated they could contact her personally at coldes@spectrum.org.

Chairperson Carlucci asked Ms. Oldes to comment on something he has heard about Spectrum needing to turn people away. Ms. Oldes discussed the assessment process and issues at the beginning of the pandemic with needing to turn people away but then funding became available to help being able to provide and having people service needs. She noted that there is a possibility of additional funding becoming available that will allow them to provide additional meals.

Chairperson Carlucci was provided information about the meal preparation process by Ms. Oldes. She also provided Chairperson Carlucci information about the special birthday bags participants receive and details about a plan to provide birthday cupcakes now also.

Commissioner Bedegi noted that as a volunteer with the 2-1-1 crisis line, she was always pleased to be able to forward calls to Spectrum to receive help. Ms. Oldes advised that the need in the Tri-Valley area is higher than people realize, and this only became more evident during the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Ingram apologized to Ms. Oldes for inadvertently informing her that she would be attending an in-person meeting to provide her presentation. Ms. Oldes stated it was her pleasure to be able to provide information to the commission.

3. Public Comment from the audience regarding items not listed on the agenda.

None.

MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW/ACTION/INFORMATION

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION

None.

COMMISSION REPORTS

- A. Commissioner Bedegi commented on the Vineyard 2.0 recent groundbreaking event that was well attended and the Chamber of Commerce event at the Career Center.
- B. Chairperson Carlucci noted that the Human Services Commission was well represented at the Axis Community Health 50-Year Anniversary event held earlier in the day and were called out and appreciated by Axis staff members. He noted that CEO Sue Compton will be retiring from Axis in June and Liz Howe has been named as her replacement.
- C. Commissioner Rubino-Brumm provided information about Sunflower Hill and their new Executive Director Jen Leonard Benson, indicating she thought she too would be interested in making a presentation to the commission.
- D. Commissioner Bedegi questioned if any commissioners had been able to attend the recent Hively Open House event, stating she had been unable to make the event but did stop by later to look around at their new site. Mr. Ingram provided information about the new Hively location and the Open House. He discussed how Hively has been able to help so many people who have been struggling through the pandemic.
- D. Commissioner Powers asked if a new youth commissioner would be joining the commission now that Commissioner Lem was graduating from high school. She also discussed the scheduling arrangements for youth members of the commission conflicting with them needed to leave the commission in the middle of a year. Mr. Ingram indicated he had spoken with the City Clerk about a replacement member. Chairperson Carlucci discussed the importance of finding a replacement youth member since they were now voting members. Mr. Ingram promised to discuss with the City Clerk the concerns raised by members of the commission.

STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioners were advised by Mr. Ingram that City Council had approved the recommended grants for the human services, housing and community grants at their recent meeting and city staff will now be entering into contracts with each of the agencies. He provided details about the council meeting and their appreciation of the work of the commission and the agencies.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Commissioner Powers asked about the possibility moving back to in-person meetings and Mr. Ingram advised that he and Chairperson Carlucci had discussed this and the commission will be updated going forward.

Chairperson Carlucci apologized for the length of the last two meetings and thanked commissioners for their patience. Commissioner Bedegi thanked staff for helping to make the meetings run efficiently during the difficulties of COVID.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 1, 2022