



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COURTNEY KEMP
Community Development Coordinator

Community Development Advisory Committee Minutes

Open Mic

February 3, 2022

Committee Members	
Anthon Hoecker	X
Moya Bell	X
David Wedick	
Brad Fox	X
Mike Taylor	
Richard Rottkov	X
Mike Fletcher	X
Staff Members	X
Courtney Kemp	X

Others Present – Pedro Vazquez, Alex Plimpton, Anthony Johnson, Brittney Sampson, Carmen Miko, Kari Filieo, Lily Lynch, Merrie Allen, Michelle Lamm, Rebecca Hobbs, Victoria Morales, William Mann

Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

2022-2023 CDBG Public Service Applications

Anthony Johnson presented City of South Portland Out of School Care Programs.

Anton asks Anthony about the possibility of changing the amount they have request.

Anthony explains that they are trying to take a loss on the before and after care program this year.

This would not be a long term fix because they don't know year to year how well the program will be. Summer camp does not generate revenue, they take a loss on it each year. CDBG funds are most important for summer camp.

Anton asks what the hesitancy on getting the city to fund the programs is

Anthony explained that they were going to ask city general fund and pay ourselves back or take a loss on the before and after care program and use the loss as scholarship vehicle.

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Pedro Vazquez presented for City of South Portland Community Uplift

Anton asks where are you getting your private donations from? Is it the community?

Pedro explains that yes it is from several people in the community.

Richard asks where will the programs take place

Pedro explained that it moves around to make sure it that wasn't just in one side of the city. Hoping to partner with parks and rec and use their facility, Wainwright again.

Richard asks are there other revenue sources besides the grant – city general budget?

Pedro explains that yes, they can use some of the budget to supplement the program, with the blessing of the commission

Rebecca Hobbs presented for Through These Doors Domestic Violence Support Services

Anton asks overall how much of an increase have you seen in the need for services?

Rebecca explains that there has been a tremendous increase in requests for services – 2,000 more calls last year than they did before. They work with all of those peoples, and they don't turn anyone away. They were able to meet fewer people in person. Increase in demand for help line, increase in demand in shelter. Intensity of the calls increased as well as the numbers. There were more in danger during the pandemic. Hopefully some of the intensity has died down.

Brittney Sampson presented for The Opportunity Alliance South Portland West End Neighborhood Resource Hub

No questions

Michelle Lamm presented for Greater Portland Family Promise Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stabilization

Carmen a graduate from the program and explains what the program did for her and her family. Carmen lived at the hotel with her family for four months. Family promise helped her get into an apartment. They helped with how to get Mainecare, helping with laundry as well as many other services.

Anton asks if GPPF is working hand in hand with QHC – is there overlapping?

Michelle explains that they are out there doing the brokering, she connects us with property managers and we take over from there and stay with them providing them with housing stabilization.

Anton comments that he now understands how the program much better.

Michelle comments that they work well in tandem.

Richard asks Michelle if this an independent agency, what is your history?

Michelle explains that this is a National organization, but entirely independent. They do have opportunities to apply for funding, received about 10k the last two years. Started in 2016 and were up until a year ago 2 full time and 1 part time and now 4 and we have doubled. We need more housing though. We have amped up the staff to ramp up the help.

Victoria presented for Quality Housing Coalition Project HOME

Anton asks what will be the impact if we can't fund you to the extent that you had hoped
Victoria explained that they will continue on and do the best they can. They are seeking other funding. Something that has been happening, is landlords are reaching out to us and asking to join the program. Because of this funding and united way it has shown we are here and can do this
Anton comments thank you for the work and excited to hear the progress you have made

Richard asks if they are a startup since 2018? Are you part of larger agency or created on your own because of the need?

Victoria explains they are the only organization doing this work with the landlords and it began in 2018 when landlord and prop managers started to recognized that we need a solution that asks market rate housing providers to solve the housing insecurity. It has gotten better over the years. Housing mentor through the family shelter.

Richard asks what the motivation is, purely do the landlord's want to help, pleased, amazed and surprise with so much support. What is the benefit for them? What do they get out of it?

Victoria explained it's not a simple matter to join on as a partner. You have to agree to remove a lot of barriers. There are a certain percentage that have issues as well, market rate as well. Not having a liaison to call because there is always someone to call. Having project home structures helps. There is always someone to call coordinating everything. There are a lot of partners.

Michelle Lamm spoke to the experience with families and project home and their collaborations. Victoria did the negotiating with landlords to get them in at a lower rate and help with other needs for the family.

South Portland Land Trust Clark's Pond Trail Extension

Need to reach out to Alex Redfield to present and invite him to the next meeting.

Bill Mann presents on the project sharing slides City of South Portland Expansion of High Speed Internet

Anton comments that I like the idea of partnership as long as the city has some control of this broadband.

Bill explains that to use our data network, you have to abide by our rules. The point of this is to ensure if we use tax payer dollars, we are using them to leverage agreements with private providers. They are agreeing it's always going to be open access and always provide access to school department.

Anton asks would the school district have their own network on the cities infrastructure?

Bill explains that at least one of the 5 respondents and work with city and school department to do exactly that.

Anton's Preference would be community owned

Bill said there has been that suggestion by some.

Moya says focused on guarantee availability for low to moderate income. Make sure something that is attainable but making sure that those in the area can access it.

Bill said when city council is looking at this, I would urge you to come speak up on this.

Richard asks what is actually being done. What is the money going toward? Nuts and bolts what are we paying for?

Bill explains it's going to equipment, I'm not sure what equipment it is though. There is a committee to review the RFP. Equipment to connect households in the lowest income neighborhoods is what the funds are going to be used for.

Richard asks is the plan to go to the lowest income areas first

Bill explains the plan is to provide service throughout the entire community, every neighborhood. It's our intent to have that.

Anton comments I would love to see this happen

Bill said we will need advocacy and support

Other Business

Richard asks when you would like us to have our scores in to you Courtney.

Courtney suggests lets have draft scores ready and make final adjustments after the next meeting.

Conversation about the absent members. Should they be scoring the applications? The committee decided they don't believe they should be due to not being present for any of the meetings or involved.

Richard comments I think we should talk more about the cities funding their own projects vs us funding them.

Brad explains that he believes that the city should be funding their own projects out of the budget rather than using these grant funds. If the Rec was not funded, we could fund everything else.

Richard would like to hear more information from the city on how this would be received.

The committee would like Courtney to do research on CDBG funding city projects

Conversation ensued about how the program is run and expectations of funding.

The committee would like to have another meeting. We don't want to rush and would like to find out some information from the city regarding budget. Is there funding available that the city could take over?

Scheduled a meeting for February 10 @ 7:00 – virtual only.

Courtney will send out an email to the absent committee members. She suggested that we have draft numbers ready for the next meeting and we can discuss how we feel about the projects now that they have all presented.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00