

Community Development Advisory Committee

Open Mic

February 1, 2023 at 6:00

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Anton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

B. Welcome Applicants – Review Open

Anton reviews the process of the open mic meeting for all of the applicants present.

C. Public Infrastructure Applicant Presentations

Westbrook Street Shared Use Path – No one present

Preble Street Hub - Natalie Rowe presents and explains the program to the CDAC while presenting a slide show.

Caitie asks Preble street what the 20% translates to in regards to South Portland residents.

Natalie states its about 1,000 South Portland residents that they serve.

Richard asks if there are walk ins allowed at this new facility.

Natalie responds that it's not a client facing space.

Richard asks how do you become aware of clients when they don't have any way to communicate with Preble Street.

Natalie explains that they rely on case managers and Good Shepard who partners with the food pantries.

Redbank Community Center Improvements - Anthony Johnson presents and thanks the committee for the time. Anthony explains the improvements that have already taken place thanks to CDBG funding but there are still some original pieces of the building including doors that do not fully shut, scoreboard causing them to move basketball leagues. Redbank is not being used to its full protentional and these upgrades could bring the programing back and improve summer teen camp.

Caitie asks what the population is that uses the building

Anthony replies that Teen Center is the big use that is open and free 5 days a week.

Pickleball, basketball, floor hockey, teen camp in the summer time. They have started to use it for different things such as movie in the park and possibly some summer concerts this year.

Richard asks if the soccer field project was completed with the other grant they received.

Anthony responds yes that it is in full use, as well as the community garden.

Richard asks if Anthony was involved in the garden project

Community garden collective is who will be the one operating the gardens

D. Public Service Applicant Presentations

City of South Portland Summer Rec Scholarships – Kari, out of school programs manager presents and thanks the committee for their time and funding in the past.

Caitie asks what the cost is for summer camp

Kari explains there is a couple of options. The full summer 8-week program is \$900 and there is a week to week option that costs \$150 per week.

Caitie asks what the subsidy percentage applies to

Kari explains that it applies to whatever they sign up for, either a week, multiple weeks or the full summer.

Erin asks if they do any fundraising for Rec Scholarships

Anthony states they don't actively fundraise, they do have a community fund that anyone can donate to anytime but it goes to all Rec activity.

Caitie asks what percentage of the 300-400 participants of them request a scholarship?

Kari replies that last year there was 40 applications, they were able to do 30 scholarships. They try to stretch to everyone so everyone receives something. They never turn anyone away who qualifies for some aid but sometimes there is not room in the camp for everyone.

Richard mentions the requests vs what we have to provide, what does it mean if you don't have the funding to give out scholarships.

Kari explains that they have not had to face that problem yet. Anthony states that they plan 2-3k overage each year.

Kari explains that they would have to turn kids away if they did not receive any funding.

Anton asks if City Council has any plans or push to put more money towards this program.

Anthony says yes, and Kari explains more and more kids are coming at the request of the school due to certain situations. We do anticipate more of that happen. The school is paying 50% and they are taking the loss of 50%. The need is outweighing what is being offered. 1 camp of 100 is already full and the other 3 are ¾ full.

Conversation ensues about the program.

South Portland School Dept, Middle School Outdoor Club and Brick Hill Ski Club - Matt Lunt presents and explains how he hopes to grow the ski program to older kids in the middle school.

Caitie expressed how great the program is and asks if the City has grooming equipment

Matt explains that the City has priorities but they did groom maybe 3 times last year but its classic 2 ski path that is mainly for exercise.

Caitie asks about the drop off concerns when they get to the High School.

Matt thinks it would be great to have this at the High school but he can't speak for the people at the High School.

Richard asks if he is familiar with The Gear Hub

Matt explains that that they are how they got all their current equipment, The Gear Hub and Facebook Marketplace. He hopes to get a deep discount from Nordic sports. He explains the trouble with getting equipment on consignment is that it's 10-15 hours a week searching for deals and getting equipment in bulk, then having to fix things regularly, so finally coming to ask for help to get things going.

South Portland Fire Department Community Outreach, Community Health and Resource Paramedic -
Josh presents and explains how he hopes to start the program for the City.

Caitie asks what would the primary languages be with the multilingual translator.

Josh responds that they would be French, Spanish, Portuguese and Lingala. These translators worked with the Fire Department when they received COVID relief funds and they are willing to come back and work with this program.

Anton asks what is the support within The City

Josh said within the Fire Department, incredible. Right now, with the City Council we don't have any funding for this program.

Conversation ensues about the program and its capacity.

Greater Portland Family Promise, Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stabilization - Michelle Lamm presents and explains the current operations of this program and needs to keep it going.

Richard asks if all 200 clients projected to serve are South Portland residents.

Michelle explains that almost all clients originate in South Portland due to the hotels.

Richard asks how you find who has the need

Michelle explains that they are based at the hotels and meet with people to get on the waiting list and they can be on there for up to a year or more. They are all asylum seekers

Caitie asks if services are providing while they are waiting and staying in the hotel

Michelle explains all of the steps that they take are while they are still homeless and they are looking for them

Richard asks what they do for translators

Michelle states she has 3 staff members that speak different languages

Through These Doors, Domestic Violence Advocacy Support Services – Jen LaChance presents and explains the current operations of this program.

Caitie asks how TTD spreads the word and are there psychosocial supports for the people taking the calls.

Jen explains they work within a lot of different systems and trying to do more in the community. A lot of online and in person groups throughout the County. As for secondary trauma, we didn't have enough

volunteers so staff was getting burnt out resulting in the turnover. They made a choice to up their salaries but there is not type of program but there is a lot of wellness but it's never enough.

Southern Maine Agency on Aging, Meals on Wheels - Ashley Perron presents and explains the current operations of this program.

Erin asks if it is the same donors every year.

Ashley responds with yes, they do have a lot of repeat donors but always trying to bolster the list.

Caitie asks when the CARES Act money is going to run out.

Ashley responds that it will be within the next 15 months if we continue to operate where we are at

Quality Housing Coalition, Project HOME at School – No one present

The Opportunity Alliance, West End Neighborhood Resource HUB - Lily presents and explains the current operations of this program.

Caitie asks what services are asked to be provided by the HUB the most often.

Lily responds that it would probably be job search, applications and child care search.

Anton asks if you didn't receive CDBG funds, what would happen. Comments that we have funded The HUB since 2009, without a doubt one of the more important programs in the city but struggling with the numbers

Lily explains that her understanding is CDBG covers 50% of her salary and she would need to chop her time in half.

E. Public Comments

No comments

F. Other Business

No other business

G. Adjourn