

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, January 29, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m., approximately 20 people were in the audience

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carrie Healy, Ron Lambe, Bill Lenehan, Elma (Pat) Maye, Marc Meulman, Jason Sims, Mike Thompson, Amy Tuley, Joanne Willson, and Logan Wessendorf (Youth Advisory Committee Liaison)

STAFF PRESENT: Vicki Georgeau, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 8, 2009 minutes were approved as submitted, 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing - FY 2009-10 Human/Public Service Funding Applications, and CDBG Program: Tuley opened the public hearing.

1. Memorandum regarding Human/Public Service funding, Human/Public Service Funding Application Booklet and Evaluation Criteria Forms: Staff summarized the ten funding applications received, current year funding levels and amount of monies available through both the CDBG Program and General Fund in comparison to the total funding requests received. Staff also noted that the Board would need to deliberate and make a recommendation to City Council at their February 5, 2009 meeting.
2. Presentations by Applicants: Lambe noted a conflict of interest with regard to the General Fund applications as he serves on the Board of the Disability Network, and noted he would abstain from participating in discussion and voting on the applications from the General Fund. Maye noted a conflict of interest with regard to the CDBG Fund applications as she is employed by the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan, which is a sub-recipient of CDBG funds. Maye also indicated she would abstain from participating in discussion and voting on funding applications from the CDBG Fund. Representatives from Catholic Family Services (the ARK), Disability Network (The Ramp Up program for renters), Goodwill Industries (Retail Work Experience), Gryphon Place (2-1-1/Help-Line), YWCA (Domestic Assault, Sexual Assault, and Mentoring programs) Housing Resources, Inc. (Housing + Program: housing counseling, eviction and foreclosure prevention and related program), Prevention Works (Parents Who Host, Lose the Most project), and the Portage Community Center (Program Coordination and Development, Youth Development, Emergency Assistance Programs and Fund Development Activities) made presentations regarding their grant requests from the General Fund and CDBG Fund. The Board had a number of questions and comments for the applicants regarding services that would be or have been specifically provided to Portage residents, client qualifications for program participation and the ability to measure program outcomes.
3. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program – Housing and Community Development Needs: With regard to the CDBG Program, staff provided an overview of the annual consolidated planning process, identified community development needs from the 2005-09 Consolidated Plan, and CDBG program core activities and program performance. Staff noted the CDBG entitlement grant is not yet known but is currently projected to decrease approximately four percent from the current year. However, the proposed federal economic stimulus package may increase funding, but to what extent is not known at this time. Staff summarized the next steps in the process, which include: a recommendation to City Council regarding human/public service funding in early February 2009; a 30-day public comment period on the draft FY 2009-10 Annual Action Plan beginning in early March 2009; a public hearing by the Board on the draft plan in April 2009; review and approval of the CDBG budget and plan; and human/public service funding by City Council in mid-April 2009 and submission of the FY 2009-10 Annual Action Plan to HUD on May 15, 2009. Willson inquired if CDBG funds available for Human/Public Services could increase. Staff indicated only if the CDBG entitlement grant is greater than currently anticipated. As no comments from the Board or public were received, the hearing was closed.

OLD BUSINESS: None

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.