

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
Minutes of Meeting, September 3, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Durian, Bill Lenehan, Elma (Pat) Maye, Mike Thomspn, Amy Tuley, Joanne Willson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Marc Meulman, Logan Wessendorf (Youth Advisory Committee Liaison)

STAFF PRESENT: Vicki Georgeau, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services

OLD BUSINESS:

Human/Public Service Funding – Annual Process – Board Discussion: Tuley summarized the discussion over the past several months and the process to be utilized over the next year, which will include: use of the same evaluation criteria; a second special meeting in January; Board submission of scores to the Chair prior to the second meeting in January; and a funding recommendation to City Council at the regular Board meeting in February.

Review of FY 2009-10 Advisory Board Goals: Tuley reviewed the goals approved by City Council, which are the same as previous years. Staff explained the annual goal setting process, as outlined in City Code, for new members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing - FY 2008-09 CDBG Program Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER): Tuley opened the public hearing. Staff provided a summary of the contents of the CAPER document, and provided an overview of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program performance in comparison to five-year goals, and specific activity performance in comparison to the FY 2008-09 Annual Action Plan. Willson requested clarification on leveraging of CDBG funding and overall program expenditures. Staff noted city General Fund monies supplement Neighborhood Improvement – Code Administration and Enforcement activities, and supplement emergency assistance services provided by the Portage Community Center, which are funded through the CDBG Program. In addition, private monies were used to leverage Down Payment Assistance projects and the Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity development on Hanover Street. Thompson noted the new single-family dwelling on Hanover Street has benefited the Lexington Green neighborhood. Staff further clarified that expenditures exceeded the budget, as permitted by an amendment made to the FY 2008-09 Annual Action Plan in November 2008, and that additional expenditures were directed to housing program activities. While not directly related to the FY 2008-09 CAPER, Willson acknowledged new funding opportunities awarded to the City of Portage through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority through a Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant. Staff indicated the additional funding would be utilized to carry out additional housing activities that supplement the FY 2009-10 CDBG Program. As no further comments were received, the public hearing was closed. Staff explained the CAPER document would be revised to reflect public comment and submitted to HUD by September 15, 2009 as required.

Metro Transit ADA Advisory Board / County Transit Authority update: Lenehan reported the City of Kalamazoo millage proposal will be voted on in November, and that Pride Care lost its contract to a non-local vendor to provide demand-response service.

Red Ribbon Week (October 17-25, 2009) Activities – Board Discussion: Willson agreed to contact Central Middle School to arrange for students and a counselor to attend the October 20th City Council meeting for a Red Ribbon Week proclamation. Tuley suggested an article be included in Portager to promote/recognize Red Ribbon Week, and offered to write a memo to City Council requesting members wear red for the October 20th meeting in recognition of the event.

Future Meetings / Educational Speakers – Board Discussion: Tuley explained the goal is two-fold: to educate the Board and to provide information to Council regarding human services in the community. Recommended speakers included: current grantees to report on FY 2008-09 activities; Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force; Metro Transit; Sheppard's Center, the United Way, Portage Community Center update, and others, as may be identified.

Robert Rules of Order – Overview by Tuley: Tuley reviewed the materials included in the agenda for the Board.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Georgeau, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services