

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, April 1, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Durian, Bill Lenehan, Angela Manahan Ilori, Pat Maye, Sandra Sheppard, Mike Thompson, Amy Tuley, Joanne Willson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Amy Tuley, Logan Wessendorf (Youth Advisory Committee Liaison)

STAFF PRESENT: Vicki Georgeau, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 4, 2010 minutes were approved as submitted, 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Human/Public Service Funding – Review of Evaluation Criteria – Board discussion: Lenehan recommended clarification on criterion #1, and Meulman requested a revisions to criterion #8 and #9. After further discussion, staff indicated a final draft will be prepared and provided to the Board at the next meeting in May.
2. Human/Public Services Available to Portage Citizens – Public Education – Board discussion: Willson explained the Board was reviewing use of the city web site, Portager, cable access, brochures, etc. to educate Portage residents on human services. Meulman noted the Board needs to know how to reach those in need of services. After further discussion, a motion was made by Meulman, supported by Maye, to form an Ad Hoc Human Services Public Education committee to work on the issue, comprised of Durian, Thompson, Willson, and Tuley.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Public Hearing - FY 2010-11 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan: Willson opened the public hearing. Staff provided an overview of the final draft of the FY 2010-11 Annual Action Plan and proposed activities with the funding estimated from the CDBG program over the next fiscal years. As no written or public comments were received, the public hearing was closed. Staff explained the next steps in the process were City Council budget workshop on May 4th and City Council review and approval of the Annual Action Plan on May 11th and submission to HUD by May 15th. As no written or verbal comments were received, the public hearing was closed.
2. FY 2009-10 Goals Update to City Council: Staff provided a draft memo regarding Board goal accomplishments since the November 2009 update to City Council. After suggested revisions to the memo, the Board directed staff to work with Chairperson Tuley to finalize the communication and transmit it to City Council by the required deadline.
3. Metro Transit ADA Advisory Committee – Update by Board member Lenehan: With regard to Metro County Connect, Lenehan reported ridership has been low, perhaps due to winter weather. Willson reported she made a presentation to the KVCC Board regarding her concern that there is no express bus from Kalamazoo to the main campus. Willson recommended the KVCC invite Metro Transit to a future meeting to discuss solutions. Durian shared her recent bus ridership experience, noting all types of people ride the bus, and that the Westnedge route was very busy. Durian noted that a larger shelter is necessary at Crossroads Mall, and that a shelter and improvements to bus stops near Sprinkle and Meredith are needed. Durian also noted it took over one hour to get to KVCC and only one transfer per paid bus fare was permitted. Sheppard and Thompson recommended that KVCC and Metro Transit look into funding or a contractual arrangement for better services for KVCC. Maye noted that due to population densities in Kalamazoo and Portage, it may not be cost effective to pay for more extensive bus services. Lenehan recommended that if the Board desires to get more involved, a communication to City Council should be developed requesting guidance. Staff noted that since the 2006 and 2009 county millages, the City of Portage has no contract for bus services, and that the Transit Authority Board and the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority have oversight authority for the provision of bus services in Portage. After further discussion, Willson recommended this matter be discussed further at the Board meeting in May.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: Willson recommended that the summer meeting schedule, and review of Community Survey questions be included in the next Board agenda. Maye announced the annual Fair Housing conference on April 30th and staff indicated the Fair Housing Center will make a presentation to the Board at the May 6th meeting as well.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Georgeau, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Services