

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, June 6, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Sandra Sheppard, Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT: Effie Kokkinos (arrived 6:35), Ray LaPoint, Elma (Pat) Maye, Edward Morgan, Sandra Shepard, Amanda Woodin

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Diane Durian, Nadeem Mirza, Kelly Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

CITIZENS PRESENT: Jan Sackley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Woodin and supported by Morgan to approve the April 4, 2013 minutes as written. Motion passed, 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Revised Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program FY 2013-14 Annual Action Plan and FY 2013-14 Human/public Service Funding: Maye recused herself from this agenda item due to a conflict of interest as she is an employee of the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan, a sub-recipient of CDBG Program funding from the city. Sheppard opened the discussion by asking for comments or questions on the Annual Action Plan or proposed new funding amounts. Kokkinos questioned why there was extra funding when a reduction was anticipated. Money indicated that in a communication from HUD, there was a set-aside for disaster relief in the current year that reduced CDBG entitlement grant funding. When the Federal Government passed a Continuing Resolution for 2013, the disaster relief set-aside funding was not included, therefore the funds were added back into the CDBG entitlement program, which provided for an overall 4.4% increase in CDBG funding for FY 2013-14. This increase was for this fiscal cycle only. After a brief discussion on HUD funding, Morgan moved to accept the revised Annual Action Plan and revised Human/public Service Funding amounts as outlined in the memo from staff, Kokkinos supported. Motion passed 5-0 (Maye abstained).
2. Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update – Maye: Maye did not attend the May 2013 meeting but updated the Board on Portage ridership information, which was up 4% in February 2013 over February 2012, and that the KTA is compliant with the American with Disabilities Act guidelines. A discussion followed involving bus shelter and that more were needed in Portage. The Board also discussed if it could assist in KTA acquiring more shelters, and what actions could be proposed for the city and Board in this regard. Maye agreed to gather more information from KTA on shelters so that the Board could discuss this issue further at the August 1, 2013 meeting. Based on the information received, the Board may propose a special project for City Council approval.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: Maye commented that a Kalamazoo resident saw the new Portage slogan, “A Natural Place to Move,” on the recent addition of the *Portager* and indicated it was offensive, as it suggested someone move out of Kalamazoo. Jan Sackley commented that the slogan was geared more towards the city parks and getting people active. Several Board members indicated that the slogan had many meanings.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Board, Maye moved and LaPoint supported a motion for adjournment. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist