

CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, March 27, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Durian (arrived 6:45), Shawn Havens, Effie Kokkinos, Ray LaPoint, Elma (Pat) Maye, Nadeem Mirza, Edward Morgan, Sandra Sheppard, and Amanda Woodin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kitu Kumya (Youth Advisory Representative)

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Maye moved and Kokkinos supported approving the minutes. Motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Public Hearing - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program: FY 2014-15 Annual Action Plan:** Chair Sheppard opened the public hearing. Staff provided an overview of the plan and summarized proposed activities with the funds available next fiscal year. Maye inquired regarding fair housing activities, whether or not the city proactively pursued integrated neighborhoods, and if the city purchases, rehabilitates, and sells homes. Staff indicated that the CDBG program has averaged two down payment assistance projects a year and while those projects were directed at specific neighborhoods, the city was otherwise not involved in a homebuyer location. However, all applicants of the CDBG program receive the "Fair Housing –It's Your Right" brochure and it is provided again during loan closings. As indicated in the Annual Action Plan, the city also tracks fair housing activities, staff participate on the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan Board, and anyone with a fair housing complaint is directed to the Fair Housing Center. With regard to refurbishing homes, the city does not buy, refurbish, and sell homes due to limited funding. A majority of the CDBG housing funds go towards housing repair activities for homes that are already owner-occupied. Maye suggested that the city fair housing brochure be incorporated into the Annual Action Plan. As no further comments were received, the public hearing was closed.
2. **FY 2014-15 Human/public Service Funding Update:** Staff explained the memo and that HUD had released funding information and the city received more than anticipated due primarily to lower reductions in appropriations for the CDBG Program and an increase in poverty. Woodin moved and Mirza approved accepting the new funding recommendation. Motion passed 8-0 (Maye abstained).
3. **Proposed FY 2014-15 Goals- Board Discussion:** After a brief discussion, Durian moved and Woodin supported accepting the proposed goals as presented. Motion passed 9-0.
4. **Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update - Maye:** Maye indicated that ridership had increased in Kalamazoo County during January and February – particularly on fixed routes that included grocery stores. In addition, the LAC had elected new officers and she was appointed Secretary. Finally, the community service vans were very successful and a main tool in increasing mobility for persons with disabilities.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Board, Woodin moved and Morgan supported adjournment. Motion passed 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist