

## CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, February 5, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:35 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Diane Durian (arrived 6:39), Shawn Havens, Effie Kokkinos, Ray LaPoint, Nadeem Mirza, Edward Morgan (arrived 6:38), Sandra Sheppard, Sharat Kamath (Youth Advisory).

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Kokkinos moved and Mirza supported excusing Elma (Pat) Maye, Amanda Woodin. Motion passed 5-0.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** After Mirza requested some clarification of the ranking discussion and Sheppard provided an overview, LaPoint moved and Mirza supported approval of the January 22, 2015 minutes as submitted. Motion passed 6-0.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. FY 2015-16 Human/Public Service Funding Recommendation: Sheppard opened the discussion regarding funding recommendations. Staff member Money indicated she had a conflict with the Kalamazoo Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition (KAHTC) and did not recommend funding amounts. Money then discussed the Portage Community Center (PCC) application and the city administration recommended funding amount (\$122,985 total with \$82,195 from the General Fund money and \$40,790 from projected CDBG funds). The Board briefly discussed the 30% funding limit on PCC and concurred that without an approved FY 2015-16 budget, the amount staff suggested for PCC and methodology used was practical. LaPoint provided proposed funding amounts and explained that he determined his figures by relying more heavily on the Board's average ranking and awarding a higher amount to applicants that ranked higher - rather than increasing funding based on percentage increases from the previous year amounts. His argument for doing so included that the percent increase method places a heavier emphasis on historically awarded amounts, locks the applicants into the same ratio of funding between applicants (for example – for every extra dollar you award to fifth place ranked Gryphon Place, you have to award fourth ranked Housing Resources, Inc. with almost ten times that amount to keep the percentages in balance). And, LaPoint indicated, the YWCA consistently ranked second and the amount awarded to them was restricted by the percent increase method by the larger amounts awarded to HRI who ranked lower. LaPoint felt that improvements made to the application, evaluation criteria, and ranking method streamlined the applications and placed more importance on application ranking. The Board then discussed the amount to award the KAHTC. The Board noted that staff had recommended \$500 and LaPoint had recommended \$1,250. His argument being that they were a start-up organization, they had effectively demonstrated that they worked with other local assistance agencies, and the funds were more of an investment when applied to a start-up organization than when contributing to more established organizations. KAHTC ranked last and the amount that they would receive would still be less than half of the amount awarded to the fifth ranked applicant, Gryphon Place. The Board had concerns on the number of Portage citizens KAHTC would actually be serving and how the funds would be accounted for in training/educational

activities. Money indicated that all agencies who received funding from the city were required to submit reports that held them accountable. In continued discussion, the Board was undecided as to the amount to award KAHTC.

LaPoint moved and Durian supported awarding \$500 to KAHTC. Upon roll call vote, Motion failed 2-6. Kokkinos moved and Durian supported awarding \$800 to KAHTC. Upon roll call vote, Motion passed 6-2.

Board discussion then focused on how to award the other applicants funding with KAHTC and PCC funding levels determined. Mirza moved and Haven seconded awarding funding amounts to the remaining four applicants based on their ranking. Motion passed 7-0.

The Board continued to discuss the amounts to award the final applicants. Morgan moved and Durian supported approving funding as outlined in Table B (which was a combination of the staff's and LaPoint's suggestions). Board discussion continued on the amounts indicated and after LaPoint again reviewed his reasoning in not continuing to use the previous method of increasing amounts by percentages but placing a higher importance on rank, Morgan agreed with the rationale and removed his motion from the table. Durian supported and the motion was removed.

LaPoint then moved and Mirza supported to accept Table A, which offered a specific dollar amount increase to all applicants and awarded increased funds based on ranking. The amounts for funding are as follows: PCC a combined \$122,985 (General Fund \$82,195 and CDBG \$40,790), YWCA \$11,100, Catholic Charities \$10,600, HRI \$18,760, Gryphon Place \$2,170, KAHTC \$800. Upon roll call vote, Motion passed 6-1.

2. Portage Alert Update: The Board provided updated contact information for the special board and commission group alert. The Board then clarified that they would still need to sign up for the Portage Alert through the city's website to receive the general city messages.
3. Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update – Maye: Maye was not present to provide an update.

**ADJOURNMENT**: Mirza moved and Kokkinos supported adjournment of the meeting at 8:15. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

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