



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 19, 2024

12:00 p.m.

Hybrid – Council Chambers

Approved: March 4, 2024

Call to Order

Chair Robyn Davis called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Alex Johnson II, Jim Cole, Robyn Davis, Larry Timm, Bessie Johnson, Emma Deane, Courtney Stubbs, Ron Green

Members absent: John Robledo, Skylar Bailey (excused)

Chair Davis called for informal introductions for the benefit of the new member, Ron Green.

Election of 2024 Chair and Vice Chair positions

12:06 p.m.

Commissioner Alex Johnson II nominated Commissioner Courtney Stubbs as Chair. Commissioner Larry Timm seconded the nomination. Commissioner Stubbs accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. The Chair called for a vote. The vote was 8-0, electing Commissioner Stubbs as Chair.

Commissioner Alex Johnson II then nominated Commissioner Robyn Davis for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Bessie Johnson seconded the nomination. Commissioner Davis accepted the nomination. The new Chair Stubbs called for a vote. The vote was 8-0, electing Commissioner Davis as Vice-Chair.

Approval of Minutes:

12:09 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Bessie Johnson moved to approve the February 5, 2024, minutes as presented. Commissioner Jim Cole seconded the motion, which passed 8-0.

Scheduled Business:

12:10 p.m.

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application Evaluation

Planner II Beth Frelander began by announcing that C.H.A.N.C.E had withdrawn their application for CDBG funds. She added that the actual CDBG fund totals aren't available yet so the total funds available are just an estimate. She then referred to the Commissioners scoring of applications and averages creating a base ranking. She pointed out that the Non-Public Service total expected funding was higher than the total ask from applicants.

Comprehensive Planning Manager, Anne Catlin advised members that some organizations are very conservative in their ask while others may ask for their full needs exceeding the available funds. She and Frelander reviewed the funding concepts provided in the agenda packet.

Catlin reminded members that ultimately their decisions must be based on the scoring of the applications using the evaluation criteria.

The Commissioners inquired about the funds the Governor had recently directed towards the homeless crisis, what organizations received funds and what funds would be coming to Albany specifically. Frelander agreed to provide that information.

Commissioner Stubbs noted that while the bigger organizations would have access and be eligible for other funding opportunities, they serve a larger portion of the community and are worthy of support. She expressed concern that some applications weren't addressing priority needs.

Commissioner Timm expressed that he would be more inclined to fully fund as many applications as possible instead of cutting back on each one. Another consideration was what programs directly served people in need.

Commissioner Cole added that if a program couldn't provide their services without the funding, it would be an important consideration versus a program that could continue whether full funding was received or not. Freelander reminded members that there aren't enough funds to fully fund every applicant and some applicants had indicated that they are able to continue services without CBDG funds.

Commissioner Deane, in her experience as a shelter provider, noted there are people stuck in shelters needing a lot of support and there are very few supportive housing choices. She added it sometimes takes multiple agencies to get one person out of shelter and into housing.

Staff answered questions regarding specific applications. Commissioners also expressed concern that funded services were specific to Albany residents.

Catlin noted that applicants should be prioritized based on how they address the Consolidated Plan Goals and their application ranking. Discussions continued on the attributes of each applicant, their rankings, and the various funding options. Catlin suggested an additional meeting to make a final decision based on the final member scoring.

Business from the Public

1:18 p.m.

Daniel Koenig had a question regarding why the non-public service total was so much higher than the public service funding. Freelander responded that the way the CBDG federal funds were allocated only allowed 15 percent for public service, 20 percent for administration and non-public service grants receive the balance of the funds.

Business from the Commission

1:19 p.m.

Anne Catlin reviewed the Commission requests for further information. Commissioner Johnson II asked staff to include the award totals from last year.

Next Meeting Date

An additional meeting was added to continue the funding evaluations on March 4, 2024, at noon.

Adjournment

Chair Stubbs adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Signature on file

Susan Muniz
Recorder

Beth Freelander
Planner II

*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing cdaa@cityofalbany.net.