



City of Davis

Social Services Commission Meeting Minutes
Community Chambers, 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, CA 95616
Monday, September 19, 2016
7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present: Claire Goldstene, Ann Privateer, Mindy Romero, Tracy Tomasky, Bernita Toney, Georgina Valencia (Alternate), R. Matthew Wise (Chair)

Absent: Donald Kalman

Staff Present: Kelly Stachowicz, Assistant City Manager
Adrienne Heinig, Administrative Aide

Council Liaison Present: Mayor Robb Davis

Members of the Public Present: Joan Planell, Social Services Consultant; Deanna Lynn-Steele, Social Worker Practitioner, and Christopher Bulkeley, Supervising Deputy District Attorney for Yolo County

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Wise.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Valencia moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Toney seconded, and the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Goldstene, Privateer, Romero, Tomasky, Toney, Valencia, Wise

Noes: None

Absent: Kalman

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons

K Stachowicz provided updates on the following topics:

1. Staffing changes at the City, as the former Housing and Human Services Superintendent Danielle Foster has moved to the City of Roseville, and while the program is in transition, Joan Planell, who has been working as a Social Services consultant for the City, will assist with Social Services projects.
2. The escrow for the Berrybridge affordable ownership project has closed, and the construction will now move forward.

Chairperson Wise told the Commission that he has joined the board of the California Center for Cooperative Development's Yolo County "Green Cleaning" project to empower low-income workers. He asked if any commissioners had an interest in joining or had any questions about the project, to contact him.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes – July 18, 2016.

Commissioner Tomasky moved, seconded by Commissioner Goldstene, to approve the minutes for July 18, 2016. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Goldstene, Privateer, Toney, Valencia, Wise

Noes: None

Absent: Kalman

Abstain: Romero

6. Regular Items

A. Need Area – Update on Homeless Neighborhood Court.

Christopher Bulkeley, Supervising Deputy District Attorney for Yolo County, and Deanna Lynn-Steele, Social Worker Practitioner, gave a presentation on the progress of the Homeless Neighborhood Court program, presented as an alternative to traditional prosecution and court. C Bulkeley described the general process, and noted that citizen engagement in the program is strongly encouraged, to assist in reintegration for the offenders back into the community. He also discussed the successes of the County's Mental Health Court program. D Lynn-Steele spoke to the challenges and barriers of the offenders to achieve success in the Homeless Neighborhood Court.

During discussion on the item, Commissioners asked about the collaboration possibilities between the City and County to provide housing for individuals going through the Homeless Neighborhood Court and the Mental Health Court, and different tools the County could use to reach out to the community in aid of the reintegration goals. Commissioners asked about any possible partnerships with other agencies serving the homeless and those with mental illness, including National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and established community support groups. D Lynn-Steele discussed the importance of follow-up and aftercare as key to success for an individual. Commissioner Toney asked about the possibility of using successful clients as mentors, and the issues facing formerly homeless individuals in finding employment and housing.

B. Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) – Public Hearing.

A Heinig presented the item; the annual summary of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) grant expenditures for the program year of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Commissioners commented on the recent improvements made to the program policies and procedures, and asked about plans to review funding priorities to address changes in grant program regulations, specifically for the HOME program.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Romero moved, seconded by Commissioner Tomasky, to recommend the submission of the CAPER to the City Council. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Goldstene, Privateer, Romero, Toney, Valencia, Wise
Noes: None
Absent: Kalman

7. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Item Submitted by Commissioner Goldstene.

Commissioner Goldstene presented her item on modifying the CDBG grant selection criteria preferences to the commission. She discussed the recent years of funding reductions, leading to lower and lower grant awards for Public Service projects, and raised concerns that funds were not being allocated to agencies in the most efficacious way. She explained that as the Public Service grants are community service awards which meet a variety of needs, it may be appropriate to find additional criteria to limit the agencies eligible for awards in the least impactful way to service delivery. Commissioner Goldstene's suggestion is to limit the agencies eligible for Public Services funding to those with operating budgets less than \$500,000. With this proposed limit, Commissioner Goldstene indicated that five agencies currently receiving funding; Yolo Community Care Continuum, CommuniCare, Center for Families, Elderly Nutrition and Northern California Children's Therapy Center would all be ineligible.

Discussion on this item began with Commissioner Privateer voicing concern about the limit impacting agencies looking to work together on projects. Commissioner Goldstene pointed out that the small sizes of the current grants could limit groups from being effective and the ability to provide lasting outcomes. Commissioner Romero suggested adding language to *give preference* groups with the \$500,000 or less operating budget, rather than requiring the limit. Commissioner Wise stated that it would be important to look at the list of Critical Needs, and how the needs are best served by local agencies, focusing on the best provision of service regardless of agency size. Commissioner Goldstene advised the commission to look into how to deal with the shrinking grant awards sooner rather than later. Commissioner Valencia suggested the possibility of limiting agencies, or showing a preference to agencies, in reference to low operating costs. Commissioner Tomasky suggested that the commission also look at focusing funding on prevention projects, rather than the historical focus on intervention projects. The Commissioners agreed to continue the discussion during the Critical Needs List review in October.

B. Social Services Commission Workplan.

J Planell spoke to the Commission about the Council Goals for the next two years, and the continued inclusion of the Social Services Strategy in those goals. She spoke to the vision of those goals being roughly 3-5 priorities as a structure to provide guidance for future funding decisions. Approximate timelines for the strategy process have it starting in early 2017.

A Heinig reminded the Commission that the next meeting in October would be the start of the Critical Needs discussion, with finalized recommendations being set for the City Council in November.

8. Adjourn

Commissioner Goldstene made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Toney. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Goldstene, Privateer, Romero, Toney, Valencia, Wise

Noes: None

Absent: Kalman

The meeting ended at 9:02 p.m.

Respectively Submitted by,

Adrienne Heinig
Administrative Aide