



City of Davis

**Social Services Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Community Chambers, 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, CA 95616**

**Monday, October 17, 2016**

**7:00 P.M.**

Commission Members Present: Claire Goldstene, Donald Kalman, Tracy Tomasky, Bernita Toney, Georgina Valencia (Alternate), R. Matthew Wise (Chair)

Absent: Ann Privateer, Mindy Romero

Staff Present: Adrienne Heinig, Administrative Aide

Council Liaison Present: None

Members of the Public Present: Joan Planell, Social Services Consultant; Bill Pride, Executive Director of Davis Community Meals

---

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chairperson Wise.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Goldstene moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Kalman, and the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Goldstene, Kalman, Tomasky, Toney, Valencia, Wise

Noes: None

Absent: Privateer, Romero

**3. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chairpersons of the Commission.**

Commissioner Valencia moved, seconded by Commissioner Kalman, to maintain the appointments of Matthew Wise as Chair, and Mindy Romero as Vice Chair for the Commission. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Goldstene, Kalman, Tomasky, Toney, Valencia, Wise

Noes: None

Absent: Privateer, Romero

**4. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons**

In response to a Commissioner question, Joan Planell explained her role as Social Services Consultant for the City.

**5. Public Comment**

None.

## **6. Regular Items**

### **A. Discuss Critical Needs for CDBG and HOME Program Year 2017-2018.**

A Heinig introduced the initial Critical Needs list, based on the previous year list and discussed modifications to the format made by staff. The proposed changes to the list provided more clarity for the process, but did not alter the content. Two options for updating the List were presented to the Commission. The Commission was also asked what content changes should be made to the list, especially in light of recent commission discussions on updating the criteria for recommending Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service grant funding, or adjusting the preference statements for prioritizing funding.

Discussion of the item began with a question about the proposed Social Services Strategy, and whether or not the development of the Strategy would guide prioritization in the CDBG grant recommendation process. Joan Planell, Social Services Consultant for the City, stated that the goal would be the Strategy guides allocation of funding towards identified need areas. While the current year recommendations would still rely on the Critical Needs List process as usual, subsequent years would have the proposed Strategy as a guide.

During the discussion, the Commission agreed by consensus that they preferred the second presented version of the List, introduced by Joan Planell, which visually separated the priorities for the CDBG and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) grants, and simplified the presentation. There was also discussion around the definition of “basic human needs,” and whether or not projects focused on prevention would also address those needs.

Commissioner Goldstene reiterated her proposal to recommend limits on the agencies that would qualify for funding, based on operating budget size, and pointed out that the issue of dwindling funding will not be alleviated in the near future. Chairperson Wise cautioned that there may be unintended consequences of having a “hard cap,” including the potential loss of services. He stated his preference for seeing all types of applications for funding, regardless of agency size, to determine the best use of funds. Commissioner Goldstene offered, rather than a “hard cap” to have a preference listed for smaller organizations. There was also discussion on whether or not the preference could be on the agency’s administrative overhead, rather than operating budget overall.

The Commission discussed whether to seek Council direction on the topic, however it was decided that as the advisory body to the Council, the Commission should present recommendations to address the concern of reduced grant funds. The Commission requested that applicants and awardees from the previous grant recommendation cycle, for the fiscal year 2016-2017, be invited to the commission meeting on the finalization of the recommended Critical Needs List in November, should they wish to weigh in on the discussion.

Public Comment: Bill Pride, Executive Director of Davis Community Meals, encouraged the Commission to recommend the addition of limiting criteria. He stated that cuts to federal funding will continue, and the smaller the grants are, the less they will benefit either

the agency or the beneficiaries. He added that the administrative burden of the grants are too high for such small amounts, and also voiced concerns about nation-wide policy changes in housing priorities that have, in his estimation, caused a reduction in the number of people served by those programs.

**7. Commission and Staff Communications**

**A. Social Services Commission Workplan.**

A Heinig noted that the Commission will finalize recommendations on the Critical Needs List in November to submit to the Council in December.

**8. Adjourn**

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

Ayes: Goldstene, Kalman, Toney, Valencia, Wise

Noes: None

Absent: Privateer, Romero

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectively Submitted by,

Adrienne Heinig  
Administrative Aide