



**Social Services Commission Minutes
Monday, May 18, 2020**

Commissioners Present: Anna Ioakimedes; Donald Kalman; Susan Perez; Kurt Snipes; Bapu Vaitla; Georgina Valencia; Matthew Wise; Judith Ennis (Alternate)

Commissioners Absent: None

Council Liaison Present: Brett Lee

Others Staff/City Representatives Present: Kelly Stachowicz, Joan Planell, Sarah Fasig, Dale Sumersille

1. Call to Order

Chair Valencia called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Perez moved to approve the minutes, with the deletion of 6C. Wise seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ioakimedes, Kalman, Perez, Snipes, Vaitla, Valencia, Wise

NOES: None

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons

Stachowicz: Provided a COVID update, emphasizing the continued shelter in place orders.

Perez: Commended the City on leadership during COVID situation. Feels safe and reassured.

Snipes: Asked if there would be a hiring freeze?

Mayor Brett Lee: Thanked commission for continuing to meet virtually.

Valencia: League of Women Voters has a Housing Element forum planned for May 27 at 6pm.

4. Public Comment

No public comment

5. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes—April 20, 2020

Vaitla moved, with a second by Valencia, to approve minutes. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ioakimedes, Kalman, Perez, Snipes, Vaitla, Valencia, Wise

NOES: None

6. Regular Items

A. CDBG Accessible Outdoor Exercise Equipment Proposal

Dale Sumersille, Director of Parks and Community Services, shared information about the Exofit accessible workout circuit, to be located at the Senior Center. The project is geared to seniors and those with disabilities (but will be open to all when not in use by

these groups). The City one of 30 recipients nationwide and one of 2 in California to receive the grant. Will have benefits for disadvantaged groups.

The Commission asked the following questions and comments:

- Why is tribal consultation required? (Environmental requirement of federal funds any time we dig in the ground)
- Will there be classes? (Yes, also for adaptive recreation).
- Can non-disabled persons use the equipment (Yes, can accommodate both disabled and able bodied persons)
- Consider teaching people how to clean the equipment.

B. City Social Services Update

City Social Services Consultant Joan Planell reported on the following projects:

- Respite Center – Took a year to put plans together and find a suitable site at the corner of 5th and L. Shared the site layout. Site has worked out really well. There is ample open space outside. The Hub is the main site and has heating and air, along with other amenities (office space, TV, restrooms, etc.) Location close to downtown and 600 A Street. Walked through other site amenities. City hired CommuniCare to run the site and that has worked out well. Wanted behavioral health professionals to run the site. There is also a Safety Ambassador, a Peer Counselor, etc.

The Respite Center was open for a few weeks and then Shelter in Place orders hit. Center had to change direction to ensure safety and social distancing. Now have very strict cleaning and other COVID protocols in place. For example, CommuniCare has been sending a nurse onsite multiple times per week. Vulnerable individuals are referred to hotel stays through the County's Project RoomKey. (While guests are enrolled in Project RoomKey, they are not eligible to attend the Center.) Volunteers are not currently on site because of COVID, but hopefully we will be able to involve on-site volunteers once restrictions lifted. Also due to COVID, staff at the site have been spread thin, so referrals and connections have not been made.

The Center has been averaging about 30 people per day.

The Commission provided the following questions and comments:

- How have neighbors reacted? (It's been relatively quiet, but city staff also acknowledge that the shelter in place orders are not reflective of more normal operations.)
- Who are you seeing at the Center? (Mix of adults, but it is not set up for families with children)
- What is the plan to transition individuals out of hotels? (Plan is to transition all but the most vulnerable out of the motels and back into the community. People are given at least a 7-day notice to leave, however, there isn't housing readily available to transition people into housing.)
- What is the capacity? (49 total at one time)

- *What are the immediate needs for Center? (Outside furniture and shade structures, dog food. UCD Vet Janet Foley and Mercer Clinic, which assists pets for the homeless, are hoping to partner with the Center)*
- *Who should people contact for donations? (City staff or Respite Center directly)*
- *Davis Homelessness Alliance – This is a private public partnership. Robb Davis is the Steering Committee Chair, along with Ryan Collins. Steering Committee is meant to be broad representation of stakeholders in the homelessness service provider community. There are five subcommittees: Housing, Outreach, Media, Emergency Shelter, Funding. There have been three steering committee meetings, with the next meeting scheduled for May 27. Staff will send a link to the meeting to commissioners.*
- *Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter – This is a volunteer organization to run a winter shelter, rotating among faith organizations. It is at a transition point in its non-profit life and would like to be a year-round shelter. Next season it would like to go from 15 to 25 weeks, but to do so it would need to transition from all volunteer organization to one with some paid staff and would also need additional funds. They are currently seeking grants and trying to find a central location and have congregations come to the central location.*

The Commission provided the following questions and comments:

What is the next phase of strategy for Davis? What should we be thinking about? (Planell responded that the city needs housing for the most vulnerable. We always need to be working on the next housing project, while at the same time providing emergency shelter.)

Public Comments:

Martha Teeter: Echoed what Planell said about housing. Housing Element coming up will be important. Davis will need goals for affordable housing units, subsidies to prevent homelessness, alternatives types of housing, to try to accommodate

C. DJUSD Services for Mental Health

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

D. Subcommittee Updates

- *Data Resources and Needs (Perez, Snipes) – No report.*
- *Awareness and Outreach (Ioakimedes, Ennis) – No report.*
- *Housing Trust Fund (Valencia, Kalman) – Valencia noted the handout she prepared on the housing trust fund dollars that will be coming in the future. She would like the commissioners to come up with recommended priorities. Chart was created to assist with prioritization. Would like to have item in June to explain HTF, funding sources, etc. to get ideas for the funds.*

- JPAL Grant (*Ioakimedes, Vaitla, Wise*) -*With deadline, the timing wasn't right for City to apply, but maybe in the future.*

7. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Development Project Update

Stachowicz: The Aggie Research Campus application is moving through the system.

B. Social Services Commission Long Range Calendar

No update.

8. Adjourn

Vaitla moved, with a second by Perez, to adjourn. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ioakimedes, Kalman, Perez, Snipes, Vaitla, Valencia, Wise

NOES: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.
