

**City of Hollywood
Community Development Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2020**

The Community Development Advisory Board Meeting conducted a Virtual Advisory Board Meeting at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, June 10th using Communications Media Technology (“CMT”). Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-69 pertaining to conducting local government meetings while under the public health emergency related to the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). In accordance with this order and due to a prohibition on public access to City Hall because of the risk to public health, the City will be holding the meeting virtually.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The City of Hollywood, Florida, held a virtual Community Development Advisory Board Meeting on June 10, 2020 via WebEx. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Marty Shuham, at 6:45 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Mitch Anton
Phil de Souza
Kelly Edwards
Jennifer Luciani
Siobhan McLaughlin
Marty Shuham
Milana Walter
Amber Yeisley

Absent:

Paola Adams
Joann Fullington Reese
Ana Kairis

STAFF:

Donna Biederman, Staff Liaison
Anthony Grisby, Interim Community Development Manager
Laurette Jean, Budget Director

PUBLIC:

3. New Business:

- *2020-2021 One-Year Action Plan*
- *COVID-19 Budget*
- *COVID waivers*
- *Action Plan Amendments*

Mr. Shuham asked Mr. Grisby from Community Development to take the floor for his presentation. Mr. Grisby shared an Excel Spreadsheet and presented the information therein.

After Mr. Grisby's presentation, Mr. Shuham commented that it was a lot of information and then opened it up to the board for questions.

Mr. Anton asked about the Project that allocated \$470-\$480K, but only \$5K was for the program and the remainder was for administrative costs. Mr. Grisby explained that the program was allocated a total of \$475K for Micro Enterprise Assistance. That the beneficiaries of the grants would receive \$5K each. Mr. Shuham further explained about the federally funded program was for small businesses, categorized as under five employees, and it would allow for up to 95 small business to apply for \$5K grants. The office of Community Marketing and Economic Development have set up program criteria and there is an application for the businesses that would like to apply.

Ms. Walter asked, of all the programs discussed, what is the top pressing program? How many Hollywood residents would be in this type of need? Mr. Grisby answered that rent and food would seem to be the most pressing based on the number of calls that the Community Development Division has received. Basic necessities like shelter and food should be covered as priorities.

Ms. Walter commented that there is a state mandate regarding a ban on evictions. What percentage of residents are facing that kind of situation? Mr. Grisby commented that no study has been completed, so he does not know of a specific number. He would believe that the amount would be heavy based on the type of economy, i.e. tourism, restaurants, and retail that many Hollywood residents depend upon.

Ms. McLaughlin had two questions. First question was can this assistance be used for undocumented people? So what are the restrictions on who can be assisted? Mr. Grisby answered that with federal and state funds, the applicants must be a legal resident or United States citizen.

Ms. McLaughlin's second question was with the number of people seeking unemployment assistance, do we have the ability to work with an agency to get people the money they can't seem to get to from the state. Mr. Grisby said that there is a staff member, Housing and Social Services Coordinator, Barbara Lawson, who assists with identifying public assistance in these types of situations. It is a possibility to use this money for that type of assistance if we could identify an agency that would be able to assist. And lastly, the use of the non-profits for referral and job placements could also assist with this type of assistance.

Ms. Luciani asked if any funds would be allocated now or in the future to an agency that will specialize in domestic violence and/or mental health. Ms. Grisby said that the miscellaneous budget is not set specifically for such services. However, in looking for an umbrella agency, if they work with such needs, we could use them in that capacity. However, domestic violence would not be the intent for these funds.

Mr. Shuham confirmed there were no more questions.

Mr. Shuham then asked Mr. Grisby to show the preliminary recommendation sheet. When it was on screen, Mr. Shuham asked Mr. Grisby if he was looking for the CDAB for approval of these recommendations to go back to the Commission on July 1st. Mr. Grisby agreed that was his intent.

Mr. Shuham said that the board would discuss their preliminary CDBG public service recommendations and the General Fund Agency Grant recommendations before discussing the One-Year Action Plan.

2020-2021 One-Year Action Plan

Addressing the board, Mr. Shuham said that in February, pre-COVID, the board had made recommendations for the use of CDBG funds; and then at this meeting discuss, change, or approve those recommendations. However, now, given the circumstances, we need to discuss these funds and how they should be allocated. He opened it up to the panel for questions and comments:

Ms. McLaughlin asked if the board had the discretion to completely change these recommendations given the current circumstances. Also did anyone know how these agencies are faring during the pandemic? Mr. Shuham confirmed that the board did have the discretion to make changes and then vote on the changes.

Mr. Anton had concerns that just looking at the averages make it difficult to make changes without knowing the original individual recommendations. Mr. Grisby changed the slide and the information Mr. Anton requested was available.

Mr. Shuham suggested that the discussion about the individual agencies funds be discussed and offered an example of how this process was completed in the past.

Then he asked Ms. Biederman and Mr. Grisby if they knew about the agencies and if they would be able to carry out the programs for which they requested funds during the pandemic. Mr. Grisby said that he did not have information regarding these agencies would or would not be able to operating due to COVID.

Mr. Shuham reminded the board that the allocations of the funds they were discussing at this meeting would not take effect until October 1, 2020, which is still a few months away.

Ms. McLaughlin also expressed concerns about the CDBG recommendations on limited knowledge based on the fact the future of these agencies and if they could carry out the programs was uncertain.

Mr. Shuham agreed at this time, it was rather like “flying blind.”

Ms. McLaughlin suggested a motion regarding CEC, and Mr. Shuham asked for more questions before motions could be suggested.

Ms. Edwards said that these CDBG recommendations would start in October 2020; but what about the emergency funds that were discussed earlier in the presentation. Mr. Grisby acknowledged that the emergency funds were presently available CEC, LES, and Hope were signing contracts on June 17th.

Ms. Biederman clarified that when the board discusses reallocating funds, they must look at the agency's max request.

Ms. Luciani asked about the emergency funds for Hope South Florida were \$30K and the funds they requested for next fiscal year were \$25K, would the emergency funds cover what they originally requested? Mr. Grisby said that Hope South Florida would likely argue that the \$30K alone would not cover the programs or the additional staff they are planning to hire to execute the employment case management program.

Ms. Biederman pointed out to the board that individual recommendations are complete and they now need to look at the averages and make determinations. This is a board approval process, not an individual request to move their allocations.

Mr. Shuham called for motions.

Ms. McLaughlin motioned for funds from Covenant House be moved to CEC. Kelly Edwards second the motion. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Shuham offered a suggestion to move funds proportionally from the other organizations instead of impacting one.

Ms. McLaughlin agreed to withdraw her motion in favor of Mr. Shuham's recommendation of increasing CEC to \$40K, taking a proportional amount of \$720.78 from seven other agencies.

Ms. Yeisley objected to taking any money from Hope South Florida since they will be playing a key role in the rental assistance program and rehousing.

Mr. Shuham corrected his recommendation to take \$625 from nine other agencies.

Ms. Luciani objected that any money be taken from Women in Distress due to the increase of domestic violence during the pandemic.

Ms. McLaughlin agreed with Ms. Luciani that taking from the agencies that will directly impact the community during the pandemic could be a detriment. She suggested taking the funds from the education agencies, Hispanic Unity and

Russell Life Skills, instead of impacting all the agencies that will directly assist the areas effected by COVID.

Mr. De Souza commented that he made recommendations based on the presentations of the agencies. He expressed his belief that everyone is making valid points about moving funds around, but the future of the pandemic is uncertain as well as the needs of the community as a result of said uncertainty.

Ms. McLaughlin asked if the board could request the Commission to give a bit of forbearance with the plan giving the circumstances.

Mr. Grisby commented that the board needs to present a plan by August and the last commission meeting before August is July 1st. He said that the board's focus is to fund eligible programs. The agency agreements for these funds is performance based. If an agency is unable to perform the activity, they would need consider bringing forth an amendment to the agreement in order for the funding to be expended.

Mr. Shuham addressed Ms. McLaughlin's question that recommendations need to be made by the July 1st meeting in order for the commission to meet the August deadline.

Mr. Shuham returned to his original recommendation for CEC to get additional funding because they have assisted the community for a long time with a needed service. He was not suggesting that the other agencies did not provide for the community or that their services would not be necessary.

Mr. Anton agreed that Mr. Shuham's recommendation is a fair compromise to give CEC more money and take proportionally from the other nine.

Mr. Shuham asked Ms. Biederman to take a roll call vote to get a consensus for increasing CEC to \$40,000 and taking the shortfall of \$5,045 from the other nine agencies. By roll call: Ms. Edwards, Mr. Shuham, and Mr. Anton agreed; Mr. De Souza, Ms. McLaughlin, Ms. Walter, Ms. Yeisley, and Ms. Luciani did not agree.

Mr. Shuham amended his recommendation to exclude Hope South Florida and Women in Distress from being included in the proportional adjustments, meaning the \$5,045 would be divided by the seven remaining agencies. Ms. Biederman took a roll call vote: Ms. Edwards, Mr. Shuham, Mr. Anton, Ms. McLaughlin, Ms. Walter, Ms. Yeisley, and Ms. Luciani agreed and Mr. de Souza disagreed.

Mr. Grisby amended the worksheet to make the adjustments to the figures.

Ms. McLaughlin moved to accept the new figures as they appeared after the adjustments.

Ms. Yeisley asked Mr. de Souza why he voted against. Mr. de Souza said that he was still uncomfortable making adjustments to any of the figures.

Suggestions were made on the presentations and he feels that other agencies may also need more money.

Mr. Shuham said that if these preliminary figures should be approved, Mr. Grisby would submit them to the commission. Mr. Grisby agreed.

Ms. Biederman injected that these are not preliminary figures, but the one-year action plan. Mr. Shuham agreed.

***Ms. McLaughlin motioned to approve the 2020-2021 CDBG Public Services Recommendations to be submitted as part of the One-Year Action Plan and to approve the One-Year Action Plan. Mr. Anton seconded the motion. Ms. Biederman took a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.*

General Fund Agency Grant Recommendations

Mr. Shuham directed the board to review the general fund recommendations that Mr. Grisby put up on the screen. He explained that the board would use the same process to discuss, make changes, and approve the general funds as they did with the CDBG funds.

Ms. Biederman advised that the City of Hollywood budget director, Laurette Jean, was also on the call and was anxious to hear about the general fund recommendations.

Mr. Shuham asked for comments or questions.

Ms. Walter commented that they were still working in the dark. However, it may better serve the community to focus on the first responder activities and possibly eliminate the funding on the arts, which is difficult to admit.

Ms. McLaughlin agreed with Ms. Walter to zero out funding for the arts and focus on the necessities.

Mr. De Souza inquired about the Sweetheartz Juneteenth; indicating that it was a social gathering in the park and wouldn't be of a necessity. Mr. Grisby explained that Juneteenth is a historical celebration about the end of slavery. Therefore it is more of an educational event, that was done virtually in 2020 and this funding would be for the June, 2021 event. Ms. Walter went on to further explain the historical significance of Juneteenth.

Mr. Shuham recommended to the board to look at the agencies on the screen and think about which ones should get more funding and which agencies should take the shortfalls to make recommendations for adjustments.

Ms. Walter suggested that since PAL was asking for funding for the first time, that maybe those funds could be cut because the board does not have a history with this board. She further indicated that Boys and Girls Club is essential as

well as Covenant House because of their role with teens. She asked about which program Hispanic Unity was requesting money for and Ms. Biederman explained what their application indicated.

Ms. Yeisley interjected that these funds were for next year and it seemed unfair to cut from the arts now, because situations may be different in the upcoming year.

Mr. Anton said that he disagreed with Ms. Walter's suggestions about PAL. Being on the board of directors of PAL, Mr. Anton spoke about his knowledge of their programs with feeding under-privileged children that were going hungry now because they could not open. He further said that the traditional funding sources they rely on will not be available for next year and this money will go directly to the kids, because there is no administrative costs, as it is all volunteers.

Ms. Edwards commented that she was torn by the PAL argument as Pal requested money for new football equipment. However, who is to say that they won't need that money come March or April.

Mr. Shuham asked the board for recommendations.

A motion was made by Amber Yeisley to leave the initial recommendations as they are and without reconfiguring. Mr. Anton seconded the motion. Mr. Shuham opened to the floor for discussion.

Ms. McLaughlin indicated that she would vote against the motion based on the unknown circumstances.

Mr. Shuham again indicated from his understanding that the board needed to make these recommendations at the July 1st, commission meeting.

Mr. Grisby asked Ms. Jean, the budget director, for her comments.

Ms. Jean said that she does not have the immediate need for approval for the general funds as Mr. Grisby does for the CDBG funds. She needs to present to the commission by the second public hearing which is in September.

Ms. McLaughlin asked the chair to ask the board to go back and reevaluate their numbers based on more current information.

Mr. Shuham asked Ms. Biederman to confirm the procedures for calling a special meeting.

Ms. Biederman said it needed to be a minimum of seven days.

Mr. Shuham then asked the board if they would agree to meet again in July, which would satisfy Ms. Jean's timetable, after they reevaluated their figures for each of these programs.

Mr. Anton injected that he strongly disagreed with that suggestion. His concern was that board members have already seen what each member's individual recommendations were and could end up slanted.

Ms. Jean wanted to add some additional information to the discussion. She has reached out to the 20 recipients from the 19-20 fiscal year concerning how they were faring during the pandemic. Her findings that were some of them were still operating as they were pre-pandemic while others have had to submit requests for reallocations of funding. However, all 20 have remained aligned with their program goals.

Ms. McLaughlin again commented that since so much has changed and there is new information available to the board, everyone should take time to reflect on their recommendations and make changes as they feel necessary. She felt irresponsible to not take the time that was available to them.

Ms. Luciani supported Ms. McLaughlin's suggestion, as did Mr. Shuham.

Mr. Shuham reminded the board of the motion made by Ms. Yeisley and seconded by Mr. Anton to keep the recommendations as they were and asked Ms. Biederman to take a roll call vote. *** Ms. Yeisley's motion failed 2-6 with only Ms. Yeisley and Mr. Anton in support. ***

Ms. Biederman asked to make a personal reflection, and Mr. Shuham agreed. She said that Mr. Anton has been a member of this board and this process, however, his term expires on June 30th. If the board does not request a special meeting prior to June 30th, Mr. Anton who has made his recommendations would not be part of the approval process.

Mr. Anton commented on Ms. Biederman's comment. He said that he was not reappointed to the CDAB board. He enjoyed his time on the board and he learned a lot about the government processes. This would indeed be his last meeting and he didn't expect the board to call a special meeting before the end of his term. He thanked all the members and wished them well with during the very important task that is put before them.

Ms. McLaughlin doesn't feel that Mr. Anton should be excluded from the final processing of this funding. She suggested having a meeting prior to the end of his tenure of June 30th.

Mr., Shuham agreed with Ms. McLaughlin and suggested in the interest of having the board reevaluate their figures and get them to Ms. Biederman, that a meeting be scheduled for June 30th.

Mr. Grisby suggested that it again be a virtual meeting as getting a meeting room prepared with COVID adjustments may be unattainable.

Ms. Biederman was concerned with extending the time as far as June 30th, if it was done in the interest of her time. She felt a sooner date would be more appropriate.

Mr. Grisby asked for Ms. Jean's input on the date of a future meeting. She replied that she was flexible with the board's recommendation.

Mr. Shuham recommended Wednesday, June 24th, and asked Ms. Biederman her thoughts.

Ms. Biederman agreed with the June 24th date and asked that each board member have their recommendations back to her no later than June 18th so that she could prepare the figures to be distributed to the members prior to the meeting.

Ms. Biederman, after suggestions from the board members, agreed to send out a form for the members to complete, and she would include the current averages.

Mr. De Souza asked if Ms. Jean would advise the board of her findings for the status of the organizations that spoke of earlier. She agreed that she can send out the reports that she has available.

Mr. Shuham agreed with the consensus of the group to table the discussion about the general fund allocations to a special meeting.

Ms. Biederman summarized that she would send out information to the members for them to complete the process of allocation funds to the agencies, the deadline to return the information to Ms. Biederman would be June 18th and a Webex special meeting would be held, Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

4. Old Business:

None

5. Member Comments:

Ms. McLaughlin said that she strongly recommends that more assistance be given to the under-employed specifically to getting them assistance with navigation the state unemployment system.

Ms. Biederman said that Hispanic Unity was already doing that. It was to be discussed at a later meeting because they were submitting an amendment to reflect the changes of their funding.

Ms. Yeisley shared personal comments on her situation during the pandemic.

6. Staff Comments:

None

7. Adjournment:

***A motion was made by Mitch Anton to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM and was seconded by Phil De Souza. The motion passed unanimously. ***