

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Human Resources Commission was held in the Twin Towers Building, PGM Department, 456 Fulton St., Suite 402, Peoria, Illinois, on June 17, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. Vice Chairperson Jones called the meeting to order @ 8:36 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Commissioners were present: Katherine Coyle, Jim Hancock, Shirley Jones, Jay McCormick, Judy Oakford, Nancy Rakoff, and Estella Vallejo; Absent: Chet Tomczyk and James Simkins.

Note: James Simkins arrived at 8:50 a.m.

Staff Present: Leslie McKnight and Linda Belcher
Others present: None

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the May 20, 2011, meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Oakford to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2011, meeting; Seconded by Commissioner McCormick; Approved 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, by viva voce vote.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Federal Entitlement Funding Levels for FY2011

Ms. McKnight informed the HRC that she had sent an email to all Public Service and ESG recipients that the City had received the final allocations for 2011. She indicated that the change from the 2010 CDBG entitlement from HUD was a decrease of \$350,000. The City had been using some unallocated CDBG funds, swept from balances for various programs, such as the Roof Program, while awaiting 2011 funds.

Ms. McKnight distributed an Agenda Item Updates Memo with the following information regarding the 2011 Entitlement Awards:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>△ from 2010 Funding Levels</u>
CDBG	\$1,743,964	\$(350,000)
HOME	\$ 796,432	\$(100,000)
ESG	\$ 84,000	\$ 980

Ms. McKnight indicated that City Council had approved the reduced amounts for the Public Service contracts at the June 14th Council meeting. She stated that the contracts are being assembled now to send to the agencies. The goal is that the agencies will submit their 1st and 2nd quarter requests for payments as soon as the contracts are signed.

Chairperson Simkins arrived at 8:50 a.m. Vice-Chairperson Jones deferred the chairing of the meeting to Chairperson Simkins.

B. Adjustment to 2011 ESG Awards

Staff had suggested awarding the increased amount of actual ESG funds of \$980 to the highest scoring agency, the Center for Prevention of Abuse, since it is a small amount and would not make a substantial impact for the agencies by being divided among all programs. Commissioner Hancock said that awarding the additional funds to the top scoring agency would be inconsistent with the way the HRC has handled changes in funding in the past with CDBG funds and suggested dividing it among all funded activities. Commissioner Rakoff indicated that since the \$980 is a 2% increase, it could be done as a 2% increase for all programs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rakoff to increase funding for all ESG programs by approximately 2%; Seconded by Commissioner Coyle; Approved 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, by viva voce vote.

C. HRC 2012 Funding Priorities

Ms. McKnight indicated that the HRC recommended priorities were discussed by the Commissioners at a previous meeting. However, since no formal action was taken, Ms. McKnight asked for a formal recommendation to send the priorities to City Council.

Proposed 2012 Priorities are:

Youth Development
Neighborhood Stabilization
Senior Services
Self-Sufficiency
Harrison School Impact Zone

A motion was made by Commissioner Hancock to approve the five priorities with equal value to each; Seconded by Commissioner Oakford; Approved 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, by viva voce vote.

D. Site Visit/Monitoring Updates

Ms. McKnight stated that four agency visits had been conducted and were very enlightening regarding what Peoria provides its citizens. She stated that agencies do an excellent job with their data collection, record keeping, and having everything available to meet the regulatory guidelines.

Ms. McKnight indicated that Chairperson Simkins was very instrumental when the HUD Rep was in Peoria. The Rep was extremely impressed with the project files and was very impressed with the agencies and how they serve Peoria. They toured Community Workshop and Training Center along with Jim Simkins. The HUD Rep questioned CWTC's applications of labor regulations and standards and Jim responded very well. The HUD Rep was impressed.

Commissioners Oakford and Jones accompanied Ms. McKnight to the YWCA visits. Commissioner Jones was impressed with the staff. They were very diligent about their jobs even though the funds are diminished. They were making things happen passionately. She was impressed with their programs and how they work together and do advance planning.

In response to a Commissioner's question regarding how they were going to insure confidence in the YWCA, Ms. McKnight indicated that the new Director, Sandy Markert, is evaluating staff situations and had stressed that they are starting over and that her mission is to come in and restore faith in the YWCA. They are looking at programs that are not making money and why. Chairperson Simkins asked if Commissioners got the impression, during site visits, that programs the City funds would be terminated because they are not receiving funds in a timely manner. They indicated that they did not get that impression. The Director of the YWCA has been meeting with funders and bankers and trying to keep them informed. Commissioner Jones said that it may be two years before the YWCA will be back to where they were. Commissioners said they felt very good about the programs at the YWCA that are funded through CDBG and ESG.

Ms. McKnight indicated that a visit was also made to the U of I Child Abuse program with Linda Simkins, who is retiring. Their Staff will be moving to a new building. Ms. McKnight stated that these agencies do their work with a smile and are so appreciative of any funding they receive. It was interesting to see the intensive action that happens when a child abuse case is reported and the collaboration with other agencies. Commissioner Jones indicated that listening to the type of abuse that these children go through, to see them in the hospital, and the treatment they receive, was a very emotional and humbling experience.

Commissioner Rakoff would like to attend some visits if they can be scheduled on a different day. Ms. McKnight said she would be willing to coordinate visits at the

request of any Commissioners. The next scheduled visits are the Boys and Girls Club on Wed., June 22nd at 9 a.m. and Prairie State Legal has been rescheduled for June 29th at 2 p.m. Ms. McKnight will continue to send a reminder email at the beginning of the week when site visits are scheduled.

Chairperson Simkins mentioned that after listening at the City Council meeting about the Gateway Building and \$1,000,000 being used for that, he would like to see that funding go to CDBG and ESG programs. It was also suggested that City Council members be invited to attend an HRC meeting.

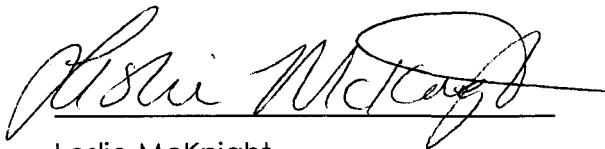
Ms. McKnight suggested that it might be good to invite the City Manager to one of the HRC meetings to meet the Commissioners and discuss issues facing the Commission. At the request of the HRC, Ms. McKnight will draft a letter to the City Manager inviting him to attend the July or August HRC meeting and then invite City Council members to attend a later meeting. A copy of the spreadsheet of CDBG and ESG funds for previous years will be available at those meetings.

E. Citizen Comments

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Coyle to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.; Seconded by Commissioner Hancock; Approved by viva voce vote.



Leslie McKnight

Community Development Manager