

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Courtyard Center
12732 Main Street

Monday, March 7, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

CHAIR BRIETIGAM
VICE CHAIR CONSTANTINO
COMMISSIONER BLACKMUN
COMMISSIONER MCINTOSH
COMMISSIONER MUNETON
COMMISSIONER PHAM
COMMISSIONER RAMIREZ

Absent: Ramirez

ALSO PRESENT: Allison Mills, Neighborhood Improvement Manager; Alana Cheng, Senior Administrative Analyst; Timothy Throne, Intern, Judy Moore, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner McIntosh.

SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2016 TERM: Chair Brietigam nominated himself for Chair, seconded by Vice Chair Constantino. The motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Blackmun, Brietigam, Constantino, McIntosh, Muneton,
Pham
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (1) Ramirez

Commissioner Muneton nominated Commissioner McIntosh for Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Blackmun. The motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Blackmun, Brietigam, Constantino, McIntosh, Muneton,
Pham
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (1) Ramirez

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: Mr. Ray Gibb discussed the plight of homeless veterans and described a plan to prevent homelessness if both the City and the private sector gave their support. He also noted that the number of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) veterans exceeded the predicted number; that there

were not enough vouchers for veterans who attended orientations; that the Veteran's Administration had no way of taking care of people; that his goal was to have no homeless veterans; that Garden Grove had approximately 4,000 homeless, of which 1,000 were veterans; that what the homeless had to offer would benefit the City; that City support would gain more Federal funds to pay for additional services; that he envisions a one-stop center with satellite offices such as for social security, the VA (Veteran's Administration), and Orange County mental health; that the center would assist with jobs and homes; that the homeless do not have transportation to drive to all the service centers throughout the county; that if the homeless problem was addressed, the City would be more pleasing; that health and weather were concerns of the homeless; that he would like to work with the City on solving the problem; and that the homeless were citizens.

Ms. Cindee Albertson, of Grandma's House of Hope, thanked the City for the ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) funds and added that they house homeless women, with the Healing Home offering a hospice for women with cancer or other terminal illnesses.

MINUTES: It was moved by Chair Brietigam and seconded by Vice Chair McIntosh, to receive and file the Minutes from the December 7, 2015 Meeting. The motion carried by a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Blackmun, Brietigam, Constantino, McIntosh, Muneton,
Pham
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (1) Ramirez

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION – REVIEW OF THE CODE OF ETHICS: Commissioners reviewed and acknowledged the Code of Ethics governing the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

PUBLIC HEARING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17 ACTION PLAN: The staff report dated March 7, 2016 was introduced.

Chair Brietigam asked if changes were made. Staff replied that the report was similar to last year's.

Commissioner Blackmun asked staff to explain the 1.4 million carry-over of HOME funds. Staff explained that the funds were used for the home investment partnership funds specific to the preservation and creation of affordable housing; that as an example, the Jamboree project was paid for by the prior year's funds; that if preliminary discussions with affordable housing developers move forward, the Action Plan would be modified; that funds were committed to a project for a certain amount of time and were to be expended in a certain amount of time; and that the funds could be lost if not committed by July 2017.

Vice Chair McIntosh asked staff to explain the excess match funds from previous years. Staff responded that the funds were not cash on hand; that HUD (Housing and Urban Development) requires that the City match every HOME dollar with another non-federal funding source.

Vice Chair McIntosh asked for more information on the FSS (Family Self Sufficiency) program. Staff responded that the FSS was a part of the Housing Authority, administered by staff and funded by HUD, outside of the Action Plan; that the funds were limited to Housing Authority clients with vouchers; and that a presentation could be given at the next meeting.

Vice Chair McIntosh commented that he understood the economic development for the Harbor Boulevard hotel district and fire station, however, he preferred that funds go to programs such as for the homeless, and at risk teens; that the private enterprise hotels should carry their own weight and not use City funds; and that the fire department funding should be from elsewhere.

Commissioner Blackmun asked if money allocated for the fire station would drain community funds. Staff explained that CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds had been expended to buy a potential fire station site, however, there was trouble trying to assemble the site; that the Action Plan line item, with a place holder of \$1,000, was in place until the project was completed or cancelled, as required by HUD rules.

Commissioner Muneton understood the need for 'gang suppression' funding, however, he believed those funds could come from other sources and CDBG funding be directed toward community programs. He also agreed that in lieu of hotel services, the funds should be focused on the community, not necessarily special interest groups.

Chair Brietigam asked for the amount of funds allocated for marketing the programs, as there was no account of how the programs were being offered to people who could benefit. Staff responded that for City-funded programs such as the Senior Center, they use the allocation given to them; that program promotion comes out of the \$326,000 program administration fund; that the ESG programs sub-recipient market their own programs to their own client-base; that the Fair Housing program uses their allocation and markets themselves; that there was no marketing formula, however, to receive the funds there must be the capacity to administer the programs otherwise they wouldn't be high-performing enough to be recommended for funding.

Chair Brietigam recommended future Action Plans to have a line item showing the amount of money directed toward program marketing and the outreach process as residents should be aware of the programs. He also recommended that the City create a one-sheet list of the programs that includes where the money is directed, along with a brief summary of the program, and how much money is allocated for the program.

Commissioner Pham asked if the Action Plan was available to the public. Staff replied that the Plan was on the City's website, copies were at the Family Resource Centers, the Library, and the third floor Community Development Department of City Hall.

Vice Chair McIntosh suggested that a future Action Plan include a Veteran's program to support the Veterans. Staff responded that the City released an RFP (Request for Proposal) for ESG funding, which went to members of the Continuum of Care, and that if Veteran's groups were a part of the Continuum of Care, they received it.

Commissioner Blackmun agreed that a one-sheet listing was a great idea, especially to inform residents who might wonder what the City does with the funds.

Vice Chair McIntosh mentioned that he would like to see more ROP (Regional Occupational Program) trade classes for the average person to take away a skill.

Commissioner Constantino also liked the one-page idea and would like to see a PDF version to post online to community groups. Staff responded that each year, with the new agreements, especially with the ESG providers, links become available on the City's Neighborhood Improvement web page that include contact information and a brief summary of services.

Chair Brietigam mentioned that the information would be buried, but the addition of a convenient one-page sheet, such as 'What is the City of Garden Grove doing to eradicate homelessness?' should be available to hand out to residents. Staff added that the current format of the Action Plan is a HUD requirement.

Commissioner Muneton asked if any CDBG programs, such as HOME or ESG, allocated funds to the Family Resource Centers, such as Buena Clinton or Magnolia Park. Staff responded that any services come under the public service cap, which was limited to 15 percent of the allocation; that the City had asked for the maximum allocation, which did include gang suppression, the Senior Center, and Community Senior Serv or Meals on Wheels. Commissioner Muneton then suggested that the gang suppression funds be directed toward the Family Centers or for use in expanding existing services.

Commissioner Pham asked staff for the current location for program resources such as a webpage. Staff replied that the ESG information was on the City's website, and that a Homeless resource brochure, with service providers listed, was handed out by Fire Fighters, Police, and resource centers, who had copies for people in need.

Chair Brietigam opened the public hearing.

Ms. Sharon Wie, of Interval House, a domestic violence and housing program, described the partnership with the City of Garden Grove, which included housing victims of domestic violence, or any homeless individual or household from the City of Garden Grove, including seniors and veterans; that HUD had a priority to

eradicate veteran homelessness and used County funding; that they were linked to OC211/211 for community resources; that they worked with the school district and the Police Department; and that they do a lot of outreach.

Chair Brietigam closed the public hearing.

Vice Chair McIntosh mentioned that he and Commissioner Blackmun have social media pages to which they could add and share Ms. Wie's and Mr. Gibb's information.

Commissioner Muneton extended gratitude to Grandma's House of Hope and Interval House.

It was moved by Chair Brietigam and seconded by Vice Chair McIntosh, to accept staff's recommendation to transmit the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Action Plan and citizen comments to City Council. The motion carried by a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Blackmun, Brietigam, Constantino, McIntosh, Muneton,
Pham
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (1) Ramirez

HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE: The staff report dated March 7, 2016 was introduced. There were no questions or comments. It was moved by Chair Brietigam and seconded by Commissioner Constantino, to accept staff's recommendation to transmit the Housing Element Update to the Planning Commission. The motion carried by a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Blackmun, Brietigam, Constantino, McIntosh, Muneton,
Pham
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (1) Ramirez

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Blackmun supported the one-sheet service listing for residents and users of the services.

Commissioner Muneton mentioned that other cities had student representation on Commissions such as Neighborhood Improvement and Parks and Recreation, and asked staff to research the process for getting the topic agendaized for a future NICC meeting. He suggested having a student from the Garden Grove Unified School District serve on the Neighborhood Improvement Commission or one of the other Commissions, as the participation and civic engagement was crucial in making the City great. Staff responded that they would look into the matter.

Commissioner Pham thanked the Commission and staff for allowing him to participate in the ESG Application Review Committee as it was an interesting process full of growth.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission will be held Monday, June 6, 2016, at 6:30 p.m., at the Community Meeting Center, Council Chamber, 11300 Stanford Avenue.