

City of Palm Bay, Florida
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
Regular Meeting 2021-04

Held on Wednesday, the 21st day of April 2021, at City Hall Council Chambers, 120 Malabar Road SE, Palm Bay, Florida.

This meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law; the minutes are on file in the Housing and Community Development Division Office, City Hall Annex, Palm Bay, Florida.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Borkowski at approximately 6:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

CHAIRPERSON:	Alan Borkowski	Present
VICE-CHAIRPERSON:	Rebecca Thibert	Present
MEMBER:	Kenneth Johnson	Present
MEMBER:	Khalilah Maragh	Present
MEMBER:	Henry Morin	Present
MEMBER:	Vacant	--
MEMBER:	Alvin Payne	Absent
MEMBER:	Vince Pryce	Present
BOARD ATTORNEY:	Rodney Edwards	Present

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Edwards participated in the meeting via teleconference.

Mr. Borkowski announced resignation of Mr. O'Hara.

STAFF MEMBERS:

Sandra Urban, Housing Administrator; Rodney Edwards, Deputy City Attorney; Elena Sarazua, Board Secretary.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

1. Regular Meeting 2021-03; March 17, 2021.

Motion by Ms. Thibert, seconded by Mr. Morin, to adopt the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Non-agenda items only)

There were no public comments.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no old/unfinished business.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. CDBG-CV3 Agency Application Presentations

Bethel Abundant Life Ministry, Inc. were absent from the meeting but were scheduled to present.

Ms. Maragh asked staff to clarify how much funding was left available for CDBG-CV3 (Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus). Mrs. Urban stated that there was \$77,629.20 remaining from the allocation for CDBG-CV3.

LeAngela Aitken from Evans Center spoke about the agency's location, services provided and programs goals. The requested \$55,900.00 funding would be used for job retention and job training for employees, and cleaning supplies. Mr. Morin asked how the agency was operating during the pandemic, how the funding would be used, and current customer volume. Ms. Aitken explained that during the pandemic, Evans Center partnered with other non-profit agencies and developed a "Food to Go" program providing free hot meals for pickup. The requested funds would go towards keeping the current staff employed and Evans Center operating. Ms. Aitken also stated that customer volume had recently increased. Ms. Maragh asked if the agency would be able to utilize the funding if the award amount was reduced. Ms. Aitken replied that any amount would be helpful.

Joe Steckler and Kerry Fink from Helping Seniors of Brevard County, Inc. spoke about programs and services offered, and how these services benefit people in Palm Bay. The agency sought funding for Media outreach program utilizing television, radio, and magazine to offer information to seniors on vaccinations, treatments, and other resources available. Mr. Borkowski stated that because of agency's incomplete application, the Board needed to decide whether Helping Seniors of Brevard County, Inc. should be considered for funding. Ms. Maragh asked staff if Media outreach was an eligible activity under CDBG-CV3 funding. Mrs. Urban advised that such activity was an allowable

expense under CDBG-CV3, but the funding could not be used to supplant funds. Mr. Steckler and Mr. Fink answered some of the Board's questions regarding program's tie to Coronavirus, tracking and documenting. The Board had some concerns about Agency's ability to track targeted clientele and program's efficiency.

Terri Smith from Helps Community Initiative, Inc. (HCI) spoke about organization's programs and services offered. The requested \$35,000 would be utilized for temporary housing, milage reimbursement, bus passes and miscellaneous supplies and materials. Ms. Maragh asked the staff about agency's past performance. Mrs. Urban replied that none of the recipients of CDBG-CV1 funding, including HCI, had a chance to start spending the funds. Mr. Morin asked how long temporary housing would be provided, and what the requested funding would cover. Ms. Smith stated that temporary housing would be provided for 2 to 4 weeks, and the funding would be used to cover hotel and motel expenses or go directly to private landlords.

Tara Pariso from South Brevard Sharing Center gave an overview of the programs provided by the agency. The requested funding would be used to provide temporary housing assistance, outreach and case management, and permanent homelessness relocation to help individuals experiencing homelessness.

Marcus Smith and Alberta Clinkscales from Space Coast Cultural Arts and Business Organization spoke about the organization's background, objectives, and mission. The organization sought funding to launch its workforce development and job placement program called Technology to Careers. The program would provide IT Certifications Program to Palm Bay residents. Ms. Maragh asked about targeted clientele and their tie to COVID-19. Ms. Clinkscales replied that the program would serve low to moderate income people who lost their jobs due to COVID-19. She also clarified what the funding would cover.

A brief recess was taken after which the meeting resumed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Scoring and evaluation of CDBG-CV3 funding requests for FY 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan CARES Act Amendment

Mrs. Urban announced the final scores for each applicant.

There was Board discussion on award amounts and how to proceed with allocating the remaining funding.

Motion by Ms. Maragh, seconded by Mr. Pryce, to award HCI in the amount of \$35,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Maragh, seconded by Ms. Thibert, to award South Brevard Sharing Center in the amount of \$22,629.20 and Evans Center in the amount of \$20,000. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board encouraged those agencies that did not receive funding to apply for future funding available.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS:

1. Informational: Staff Report

Mrs. Urban provided a status update on different housing programs and funds, such as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program, CDBG-CV1 (Coronavirus), State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP), Voluntary Home Buyout Program and American Rescue Plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM.

Alan Borkowski, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

Elena Sarazua, BOARD SECRETARY