

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

July 7, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson McEachran, Commissioners Bruels, Kline, Mercer, Oxrieder, Perelman, Villar

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Dee Dee Catalano, Kayla Valy, Helena Stephens, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair McEachran who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Perelman who arrived at 6:49 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 7, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Villar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruels and the motion carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Stephanie Cherrington, Executive Director of Eastside Pathways, made the Commission aware of a recent significant cut in funding by the Puget Sound ESD for Head Start slots at the Bellevue School District. She said it is another example of funding flowing out of the Eastside community. Eastside Pathways, a community partnership of nearly 60 organizations, concluded it should respond to the Puget Sound ESD. She provided the Commission with a copy of the letter which was signed

by the leadership committee chaired by Amy Mack and vice-chair Patti Skelton-McGougan as well as the superintendent of the Bellevue School District Dr. Tim Mills. The second step in the multipronged approach to responding to the cut involves supporting the Bellevue Schools Foundation that is putting together a campaign to help backfill some of the funding lost, and the third step involves galvanizing support for a broader campaign on the Eastside to create awareness of the significant need so funding will not continue to be lost.

Ms. Lynn Juniel with the Bellevue Schools Foundation said the mission of the organization is to develop, promote and fund the best possible learning environment for all students in the Bellevue School District, including the youngest and most vulnerable kids who will be hit hard and left out in the cold because of the funding cut. The importance of a good start in preschool, especially for low-income children, cannot be overstated. The Foundation is spearheading a campaign to help backfill the almost \$1 million that was cut from the District's budget. The Foundation is communicating with potential donors, planning fundraising events, reaching out to like-minded non-profits and partners. School starts on September 1 and the focus is on making sure no children are left out in the cold.

Ms. Cherrington quoted Deanne Puffert, Executive Director of Child Care Resources, who said as a long-time early learning professional she has experienced the debilitating impacts cuts to early learning services can have on children and families. Cutting all of the Head Start slots in Bellevue is a huge loss to Bellevue's diverse and needful low-income community of families and children. The importance of the Head Start slots and corresponding services cannot be overstated, particularly in communities where there are huge income disparities that result in few other available options for the families.

Ms. Sim Win said she is the parent of children who go to Head Start and the Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program (ECEAP) program. She spoke in support of funding for the Head Start program in the Bellevue School District. She said the Head Start program prepared her children for kindergarten and taught them to be social, to respect other cultures, and to eat nutritional foods. The hardworking staff really care and they go above and beyond what is asked of them. Without Head Start programs, low-income families cannot afford quality childcare. Records have shown that kids in quality childcare preschools score higher on their assessment tests. She said her children serve as proof that the program prepares children for successful futures.

Speaking through a Spanish interpreteter Ms. Lydia Silva, Marta said she is a mother of three who works at home and who uses the Head Start services. She said everyone knows the importance of preschool for the future and careers of students. She said her children have benefited from the Head Start program. The program is very important for the community and hopefully it will continue. The progress being made by her children is evident. She said her son just completed kindergarten and is

enrolled in a bilingual program. She thanked the Commission for helping with the program and said she hopes to see the program continue.

Also utilizing the translation services of Ms. Silva, Ms. Adrian Ortega said she has two children, one of which went to Head Start. She said the program is very important. She said her son was very shy at the beginning of the year and challenged because the family speaks only Spanish at home, but has improved a lot in the Head Start program. Now he likes to cooperate and communicate with the other children. The teachers have done a very good job with him. She said hers is a low-income family that cannot afford preschool and said she hopes her daughter will also have the opportunity to attend Head Start.

Ms. Tia Burner Dino said her four-year-old started with Head Start when he was three. She said her son was very shy in the beginning but developed quickly and is learning about eating healthy. She said she was brokenhearted when she learned that the Head Start program had lost funding. The program helps a lot of children.

Ms. Debra Doitch, Director of Early Learning for the Bellevue School District, said she has been working closely with the district in response to the loss of funding for the Head Start program. The news did not break until the middle of June and the contract ended on June 30. The District is looking at where funds can be freed and what strategies can be utilized. The District will contribute some to the program, but it will not be enough to backfill the entire loss.

Ms. Chelsie Gray said she is a full-year teacher for Head Start and said the kids are her heart. She said in two years children will enter kindergarten who have never seen a classroom. They will know nothing about classroom rules, classroom routines, or how to problem solve by talking with their peers. The data shows that the kids coming into Head Start as three-, two- and one-year-olds quickly get up to par with their peers. Hopefully the community will find a way to sponsor the preschoolers, many of whom have already started their journey.

Mr. Art Noon said he volunteers with the New Bethlehem Project. He spoke representing the many supporters of the project who have already contributed many volunteer hours and nearly \$475,000 toward accomplishing the objectives. The money was raised in a fairly short period of time from individuals and families. He delivered to the Commission a small stack of letters from supporters to indicate the supporters are both concerned about and active in addressing the issue of homelessness on the Eastside, particularly family homelessness. He encouraged the Commission to support a partnership in the future by funding New Bethlehem. The project came about as an initiative of several churches and organizations interested in taking action with regard to homelessness on the Eastside. The project is taking a three-pronged approach that will begin with the opening of a new day center in the basement of the Salt church in Kirkland near Lake Washington High School. It is scheduled to open in the fall as the only day center on the Eastside focused on families with children under the age of 18. The project is also focused on extending

the operations of the existing emergency overnight shelters and on seeing a permanent emergency shelter for families.

Family, Youth and Teen Services Manager Helena Stephens, Department of Parks and Community Services, addressed the issue of wraparound services and how it is different from the human services specialists and the home to school family liaison positions within the schools. She said wraparound services came to be in the 2004-2005 time period as an opportunity for the city, the school district and United Way to act collaboratively to provide additional and different types of services within the school setting. In particular, one issue that came to the attention of the city was that teachers were overloaded with trying to provide social services to their students and their families, interfering with their ability to focus on academic quality. In addition, Lake Hills Elementary was set to undergo a transformation in a new building, and the city was in the process of looking at how to revitalize the surrounding Lake Hills neighborhood. It was decided that the new school building would be the perfect place to house a new program. The wraparound services coordinator position was based on the Sun model out of Portland and the intent was for the coordinator to bring in a variety of different community groups and services for the school as a whole, to create greater partnerships between the school and various agencies, and to provide additional services to neighborhood residents around the school itself, helping the neighbors to see the school as a community hub. Since the program began there has been a great deal of growth within the school district. The human services specialist and the home to school family liaison positions have been incorporated into several schools, and wraparound services now is at both Lake Hills and Stevenson elementary schools.

Ms. Stephens provided the Commissioners with a handout that clarified how the human services specialist, home to school family liaison and wraparound services programs differ from each other. She pointed out that wraparound services coordinates community partnerships and activities for the neighborhood within the school's geographical boundaries. One example of a recent partnership was with Walgreens to do vaccinations at Stevenson which saw 365 people participate. Another example is the annual blueberry festival operated in partnership with the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association and some 30 different service providers that sees up to 700 participants each year. The wraparound program is fully funded by the city of Bellevue and the staff are city employees.

The primary focus of the human services specialist is on making sure students in the respective schools have food, assistance with clothing and housing. They work directly with students to identify the needs. The home to school family liaison works directly with the parents and the families. Both of those positions are partially funded by the city at a rate of about 17 percent, and the employer is the Bellevue School District, largely via a grant from the Human Services Commission.

Ms. Stephens said the wraparound services program also brings in outside grants and resources that can be dispersed at the school. The school is often a beneficiary.

****BREAK****

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Villar noted that she had attended the joint human services commissions and advisory committees to talk about affordable housing and how it is increasingly becoming a regional issue. It was explained that King County is taking over coordinated entry from Catholic Community Services. There will be five regional hubs, each of which will offer identical services and assessments.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie noted that while it was reported at the joint meeting that no agency answered the RFP to serve as a regional access point for the Eastside, Catholic Community Services has since submitted an application.

Commissioner Villar said assessments will be done that will determine the level of need for housing. Those who rank zero to three will be addressed with triage services but will not qualify for affordable housing. Those with a rank of between four and six will qualify for affordable housing, while those ranked from seven to ten will qualify for affordable housing with high-needs services. Those eligible will be put on the wait list for housing, but someone with a score of five will be given priority over someone with a score of four, even if the person with the lower score was added to the wait list first. It could be as long as a year before people will be reassessed for need.

Chair McEachran reported that he attended the Affordable Housing Community Forum. The panel included representatives from Imagine Housing and The Sophia Way as well as the Bellevue School District. The meeting was very informative.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Human Services Funding Application Review - CDBG Applications with Staff Reviews & Preliminary Funding

Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano said as a direct entitlement city, Bellevue receives funds directly from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is responsible for administering them. The city never knows in advance, however, how much the allocation will be, and the 2017 amount will not be known until sometime in 2017. The estimate is that the city will receive \$635,872. She explained the percentages that could be used for planning and administration as well as for public services before briefly reviewing the list of applications.

Commissioner Mercer pointed out that the request for capital dollars from the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club involves purchasing the building which they currently rent from the city and she asked if the CDBG rules allow for allocating funds to an agency that will ultimately be given back to the city. Ms. Catalano said she confirmed with HUD that that is in fact allowed.

Commissioner Kline asked how far along the Boys & Girls Club is in the process of purchasing the building. Ms. Catalano said they are still in the process of seeking funding. They are asking the city for \$150,000 and Microsoft for \$200,000, but those funds are not yet secured. The city has also not formally agreed to sell the building but once the due diligence is done an agreement will be signed, provided the agency can come up with the funding.

With regard to the Major Home Repair Program, Commissioner Mercer said it was her understanding that the program has actually been running ahead on the amount of money they had. Ms. Catalano explained that since the last update, the program has caught up on its backlog and is able to expend more money. An additional \$200,000 for the Home Repair Program is being sought, with \$116,493 for administration and \$323,507 for projects.

Ms. Catalano said Sound Generations was asked if they could spend more money in 2017 if there were more money to give. Their answer was an additional \$14,300 would allow them to serve 50 households rather than 45, which would bring their request to \$95,000.

Ms. Catalano said the total funds requested add up to \$923,147. It is estimated that when 2017 begins, there will be \$312,970 in unspent prior year funds. Adding to that the estimated \$635,872 allocation for 2017 and an estimated \$200,000 from program income, the total reaches \$1,148,842.

Commissioner Mercer observed that there was no request from ARCH. Ms. Catalano said ARCH did not apply because any project for which they use Bellevue CDBG funds must be spent in Bellevue, and that has proved to be a problem for the organization. Additionally, their projects can take several years to spin up, which runs up against the HUD rules regarding timeliness.

With regard to the proposed contingency plan, Ms. Catalano explained that if the entitlement amount is more than estimated, the first additional funds will flow to the Major Home Repair Program. If there are still additional funds, the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club will be approached to see if they could use more toward purchasing the building. There is no expectation that the allocation will exceed the projection. If funding is reduced, the spending caps for administration and planning and public service will be verified first, then the allocation to Jewish Family Service will be reduced first, followed by Sound Generations and then the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club. The Boys & Girls Club has indicated it could still move forward with its project if funded at only \$95,000 rather than the requested \$150,000.

A motion to approve the 2017 CDBG proposals was made by Commissioner Mercer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruels and the motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the 2017 CDBG contingency plan was made by Commissioner Bruels. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Villar and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Leslie explained that she had put in a request for an additional \$248,000 for programs addressing homelessness that particularly relate to the Council's priorities. The internal budget process has passed the first stage where the results teams rank all of the budget proposals from the various departments. The human services proposal was ranked at number one in the category of Quality Neighborhoods and Innovative, Vibrant and Caring Communities. Those proposals have been passed on to the Leadership Team where the focus will turn to specific dollar amounts, including the additional requests that were submitted that totaled almost \$7 million for the general fund. She suggested the Commission should hold off on taking any final vote on funding until September by which time the leadership team will have made its proposal.

The spreadsheet shared with the Commission two scenarios for consideration pointed out that for the applications specifically related to homelessness, the Commission had preliminarily recommended funding \$307,995, leaving a gap of \$108,497 to fully fund the requests. Under the second scenario, the staff recommendation showed funding in the amount of \$258,413, leaving a gap of \$158,079 to be addressed with additional funds.

Commissioner Mercer pointed out that in addition to asking for nearly \$160,000 more, the allocation for the specific programs listed represented a 25 percent increase over the previous allocation. Ms. Leslie said the Commission could elect to move more into the additional investment column, but the move could be risky.

Commissioner Bruels said the gamble would lie in the sense that if the extra money is not received, it would be necessary to go back to the list of applications and redetermine how the general fund dollars should be distributed.

Commissioner Kline asked if the Commission has in the past ever been successful in seeking additional funding at the Leadership Team level. Ms. Leslie said there are two ways additional funding could be realized. The preferred way is through the budget process. During the last budget process, additional funding was requested and denied, and the Commission decided to go to the Council with a special request. At the last minute, however, the City Manager told the Parks & Community Services Department to find a way to fund the additional request. During the recession, the Commission's Council liaison pushed through a request for additional funds. The Commission will not know at the time of the public hearing what the recommended funding level will be, but by September should have a pretty good idea of what the chances are of receiving additional funding.

Commissioner Kline asked if the additional funding requests made by other city departments included anything related to homelessness. Ms. Leslie said there were none that she was aware of.

Attention was given next to the applications previously flagged for additional discussion.

3. Catholic Community Services: Eastside Winter Shelter for Families

Commissioner Bruels proposed moving \$12,500 to the special request list.

Commissioner Villar suggested the move would be a gamble in the event the additional funds are not realized. Commissioner Bruels agreed but pointed out that the Commission's recommendations were still at the preliminary stage and if no additional funds are approved, the Commission would simply figure out another way.

Commissioner Villar countered that if the \$12,500 is allocated to some other application in the hope that additional funds will be awarded, going back will require taking the funds away from the other application and trigger disappointment and confusion. She proposed keeping the funding for the winter shelter for families at \$25,000, and there was agreement to do that.

In discussing Application 29, however, the decision was made to preliminarily recommend \$21,367.

5. Catholic Community Services: New Bethlehem Day Center for Families

Commissioner Mercer proposed reducing the allocation to zero and moving the entire amount to the special request list. She argued that while the winter shelter is an ongoing program, the proposed day center is a new program.

Commissioner Villar said she would prefer to leave the funding at \$12,500 as previously recommended by the Commission. She recommended at least partially funding every program that has been highlighted for new dollars.

7. Congregations for the Homeless: Eastside Winter Shelter

Commissioner Perelman said she could support the recommendation made by staff to preliminarily recommend \$63,029 and to place the balance on the special request list.

Ms. Leslie noted that the request is quite large, but because of the Council's priorities it stands a good chance of being funded.

Commissioner Mercer pointed out that the agreement to fund Application 3 at \$25,000 and not putting any of it onto the special request list, another application

could be reduced by the \$12,500 that had been recommended for additional funds. She proposed preliminarily recommending \$50,000 for Application 7.

Commissioner Villar argued in favor of ensuring that certain applications will move forward successfully, even if no additional funds are approved.

There was agreement to move ahead with an allocation of \$63,029.

10. Congregations for the Homeless: Outreach

There was agreement to preliminarily allocate \$36,312 as proposed by staff, with the balance to be included on the special request list.

13. Emergency Feeding Program: Emergency Feeding Program

There was agreement not to change the Commission's preliminary recommendation not to fund the application.

14. Friends of Youth: Homeless Young Adult Housing

There was agreement to reduce the preliminary allocation to the COLA amount of \$88,960.

17. Hopelink: Emergency Food

There was agreement to divide the 2016 award of \$11,363 to the Emergency Feeding Program between Application 17 and Application 23, yielding a preliminarily recommendation of \$64,352 for Application 17.

18. Hopelink: Emergency Services Financial Assistance

There was agreement to preliminarily recommend \$31,778.

19. Hopelink: Housing

There was agreement to preliminarily recommend \$87,765.

22. Lifewire: Housing Stability

There was agreement to preliminarily recommend \$10,500.

23. Renewal Food Bank: Renewal Food Bank

There was agreement to preliminarily recommend \$20,000.

28. The Salvation Army: Eastside

There was agreement to preliminarily recommend \$15,874.

29. Sophia Way: Eastside Winter Shelter for Women

It was noted that staff was recommending preliminarily funding the application at \$12,500.

Commissioner Mercer cautioned that doing so would reduce the additional amount needed by \$25,000, bringing the total amount needed to fund the full requests to just over \$130,000. She said the scenario presented by staff is what will be used to back up the case for additional funds, and reducing the total will jeopardize the ability to get more money out of the budget.

Commissioner Villar said the risk is not having money to fund other programs if no additional funds are approved.

Ms. Leslie said the Commission should clearly indicate which applications and programs it wants to see adequately funded, and it should do so with the general fund dollars. She said it will be made clear to the agencies that the funding recommendations are only preliminary and that an additional ask has been submitted.

Commissioner Bruels said his argument with having to deal with general fund dollars and possible backdoor allocations is that it is very difficult to allocate funds if there is no clear picture as to how much money there is to allocate.

Ms. Leslie said the Commission knows what funds it has for sure. Commissioner Mercer agreed but stressed the need to have a strong argument in support of any additional funds requested. The amount that has been requested is \$248,000, but the amount shown on the scenarios spreadsheet indicates a need of just over \$130,000, and it will be very difficult to argue for anything more than the \$130,000. Ms. Leslie said the scenarios spreadsheet is information staff will have.

Commissioner Villar said one of the strongest arguments will be that there are wraparound services traditionally supported by the city that may go wanting if the money is put primarily into affordable housing and homelessness. Commissioner Mercer agreed and said the request for the full \$248,000 in additional funding is valid so that the continuum of services can also be funded. The Commission should come up with a list of what the Commission wants to fund relative to homelessness, along with a list of other things that will be cut unless additional dollars are allocated.

Commissioner Villar pointed out that Application 29 had been split into Applications 3 and 29. She suggested taking the 2016 award amount of \$40,088, adding a COLA to

it, dividing it in half and giving Applications 3 and 29 the resulting amount, which would be \$21,367. There was consensus to do that.

31. The Sophia Way: Women's Day Center

There was agreement to preliminarily recommend \$38,927.

32. YWCA: Family Village

Ms. Leslie said one issue that arose at the joint meeting on July 28 was that because the system changes are in flux, it will be important to maintain funding for regional programs until the dust settles. Once the system changes have occurred, it might make sense to pull out all the homeless programs and have the Eastside cities review them as a system.

Commissioner Mercer asked why the application had not been included on the special request list. Ms. Leslie said the programs on that list do not include housing programs, only shelters, day centers and crisis intervention and prevention programs. Commissioner Mercer asked if the Family Village application could be added to the special request list along with the food and emergency services programs. Ms. Leslie explained that she would not add the food programs, and that emergency financial assistance is a homeless prevention program and is already on the special request list. She said Hopelink housing and the Family Village could be added to the list as well. Commissioner Mercer suggested that would bolster the reasoning for the ask.

Commissioner Kline asked if the projects on the special request list will be locked in should the additional funding be granted. Ms. Leslie allowed that they would be.

Commissioner Mercer proposed moving the Hopelink housing program to the special request list at the very least and consider moving the Family Village application as well.

Commissioner Perelman clarified that the increased ask from the YWCA resulted from a change in their formula and would not translate into additional people being served.

Commissioner Kline said one significant element to the Commission's success in the past with getting additional funding has been the credibility with the numbers put forward.

Commissioner Bruels said he was persuaded by that argument to leave things as they were.

Commissioner Kline asked to be reminded as to why the Commission had preliminarily recommended only half of the requested amount. Commissioner Villar said it was because the cost per unit for Bellevue was significantly higher than the

cost per unit for Redmond, and the clear reason behind the ask was that Bellevue has a larger budget.

Ms. Leslie pointed out, however, that at the joint meeting it was made clear that the focus needs to shift to a regional approach. Even though some of the units will be changed to permanent supportive housing and will therefore house Redmond residents instead of Bellevue residents, there is a clear need to take the systemwide view in funding programs. She proposed recommending \$26,000 from the general fund and putting the balance of the \$52,972 in the special request list. There was agreement to take that approach.

37. Bellevue School District: Human Services

There was agreement to preliminarily recommend \$67,117.

42. Chinese Information and Service Center: Cultural Navigator Program

There was agreement to preliminarily recommend \$66,146.

62. Refugee Women's Alliance: Domestic Violence Support Group

There was agreement to preliminarily recommend \$15,000.

64. Bridge Disability Ministries: Mobility

It was noted that the Commission had been evenly split on whether or not to fund the application. Given the budget numbers, the decision was made not to fund it.

Commissioner Villar pointed out that the requested amount is a very small portion of the program's overall budget and would not have a significant impact.

72. International Community Health Services: Dental

Commissioner Villar commented that the Commission had decided the amount of funding should be held flat as a way of sending a message to the agency.

Commissioner Mercer suggested reducing the allocation to \$40,000 and her suggestion was agreed to.

88. Bellevue School District: Early Learning Programs

Commissioner Villar argued that a COLA increase would not be enough to offset the loss of Head Start funding. Commissioner Kline agreed that the Commission should be able to point to the application and say it did what it could.

There was agreement to preliminarily recommend \$123,039.

Commissioner Kline asked if Bellevue College lost its Head Start money. Ms. O'Reilly said it was her understanding that they had not lost their slots. On the Puget Sound ESD website there is press release that offers some insight. The district received 90 percent of the funds from the five-year Head Start grant that was awarded to the district, which accounts for the ten percent cut. In all, 399 enrollment opportunities in Pierce and King counties were cut, of which 151 were in King County. In order to accommodate the cuts, agency staff looked at many factors using a risk assessment process that reflects Puget Sound ESD's early learning existing areas of monitoring priorities. The tool measures risk in several areas, including administration and family engagement. The federal government gives the awarded funds to the contracted administrative agency, which for Pierce and King counties is the Puget Sound ESD. Puget Sound ESD then processes the increases or decreases.

Commissioner Mercer asked if the Commission could receive copies of the Bellevue School District's grant applications. Ms. O'Reilly said she was not sure if an application process is used but agreed to ask.

Commissioner Kline asked if the district will be coming forward with a special request for one-time funding. Ms. O'Reilly said she did not know.

Commissioner Villar noted that the Commission funded Application 6, Congregations for the Homeless Drop-In Center, with \$12,345. The new request is for \$45,000 and the Commission preliminarily agreed to allocate \$25,000. She said she could support taking \$5000 to \$10,000 from the program and use the funds. Commissioner Kline said it would be better to go with a COLA increase only.

The Commission agreed to recommend funding the program at \$123,039.

47. India Association of Western Washington: IAWW Community

Commissioner Villar said she had originally recommended \$15,500, based on \$100 per service unit.

Commissioner Perelman suggested that \$10,000 would be a better starting point. The Commission settled on that number.

56. Crisis Clinic: Teen Link

Commissioner Villar said she could support giving only a COLA increase.

Commissioner Bruels argued in favor of keeping the allocation at \$10,000. Commissioner Perelman proposed \$8000 and there was agreement to go with that number.

61. Lifewire: My Sister's House

Commissioner Perelman asked why the Commission had recommended funding the full request, which represents a substantial increase over the previous allocation. Ms. O'Reilly said the requested amount reflects the cost to operate the shelter and includes a proportionate share of shelter supplies, sheets, clothing, food, overhead for shelter staff and other particulars.

Commissioner Perelman proposed lowering the allocation by \$8485, the amount needed to balance the requests with the amount of available funding. The suggestion was accepted and it was decided to move the balance over to the special request list given that the program involves shelter.

Chair McEachran asked if any other application needed to be addressed.

Commissioner Perelman asked why the Commission had decided to fund only about half of the Application 52, Youth Eastside Services: Healthy Start , request. Ms. O'Reilly said the preliminary recommendation roughly matches what the agency received when the Healthy Start program was using a different model. The recommendation essentially correlates to flat funding.

Commissioner Mercer said if more money is received, some of it should be earmarked for the diversity programs, such as Application 47, India Association of Western Washington, and Application 42, Chinese Information and Service Center: Cultural Navigator Program.

Ms. Leslie said staff would review the numbers one last time and make sure all the rationale are included before sending it out again to the Commissioners to review.

7. OLD BUSINESS – None

8. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie informed the Commissioners that the Assistant City Manager found some dollars in the city budget to fund the Homeless Outreach Worker for the rest of the year. The position serves as a tremendous resource for the police. Tent City IV is coming to Bellevue in July and outreach will be conducted there.

Ms. Leslie reported that the interim shelter for men in the day center is still moving forward. A conversation with the other tenant of the building was held and no objections were raised.

9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Villar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Oxrieder and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair McEachran adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Secretary of the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

July 19, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson McEachran, Commissioners Bruels, Kline, Mercer, Oxrieder, Perelman, Villar

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Dee Dee Catalano, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair McEachran who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Chair McEachran reported that the Affordable Housing Technical Advisory Group was slated to meet again on July 25.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Proposed Use of 2017-2018 Human Services Funding and 2017 CDBG Funding

A motion to open the public hearing was made by Commissioner Bruels. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Oxrieder and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dale Hoover with Sound Generations noted that the organization was previously known as Senior Services of King County. He said nationally 10,000 people turn 65 every day. The elder population currently constitutes 17 percent of the national

population, and within the near future the 25 percent mark will be hit. The Meals on Wheels program will see a corresponding increase in the need to provide meals to elders with medical conditions to help them maintain a nutritional degree of survival. The Sound Generation Meals on Wheels program passed its federally funded allotment via DSHS and ADS at the half year point. During 2015, 437,000 meals were served in King County alone, and the estimate is that 2016 will see an increase of some 58,000 meals. It has been necessary to process only 25 applicants per month even though 75 applications are received each month; the result has been a five-month waiting list. Like many other agencies, Sound Generations has experienced the loss of funding from a major funder who has changed its direction and focus. The sold mantra of Sound Generations is to help elders remain in their homes as long as possible. It costs \$5 per meal, but the average donor rate is only \$0.87 per meal. Income has no bearing on who gets served and the program offers 35 meal choices. Sound Generation also operates the Minor Home Repair Program which over the last year has seen a 19 percent increase in calls for services. The Commission was thanked for its support of the Sound Generation programs in the past and for considering continued funding.

Ms. Mary Ellen Stone with the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center thanked the Commission for its recommendation to fund the agency's application. It has been 30 years since the city first funded the organization. Sexual assault has never been more in the news than it is currently. That is not because things are getting worse but rather because more people are speaking out. The problem will not be solved until people are willing to talk about it, and unless victims and their families are willing to seek help. To date in 2016, over 150 Bellevue residents have been victimized by sexual assault; half of them are children and teens, and the other half are adults. The agency has a strong presence in Bellevue and a solid partnership with Friends of Youth. Sexual assault and homelessness are intimately connected; it is a drive for young people running away and becoming homeless. All services are bilingual and bicultural.

Ms. Rita Badh, Outreach Specialist for India Association of Western Washington (IAWW), explained that the organization has been in existence for 33 years and enjoys strong connections with the linguistic, religious and cultural groups in India. In 2015, the organization served 3500 individuals with 30,000 volunteer hours. The largest recipient of services was residents from Bellevue, and it was all accomplished with zero funding and no staffing. East King County has the fastest growing India population in all of America, and the largest portion of Bellevue's foreign-born population is from India, comprising nine percent of the population. While the agency is grateful to have been recommended for funding, many from the Indian community in Bellevue and on the agency's board are finding it difficult to reconcile the fact that the proposed funding for 2016 represents only 0.2 percent of the Commission's overall budget. The agency has never before sought funding from the city. The Indian community members have needs that mirror the needs of other communities. The organization has been operating out of the North Bellevue Community Center for the past year and a half and on a typical day more than 50 students participate in

learning conversational English, more than a hundred seniors participate in chair yoga, and 30 take advantage of the free legal clinic. The Commissioners were asked to consider increasing the proposed funding level.

Mr. Rohit Duggal said it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as an advisor for the IAWW Youth Leadership program. He said he graduated from the program 14 years ago and as such can personally attest to the value it brings to the community and its youth. He said collectively along with other advisors, more than 2000 hours are given per year to the program. The advisors are dedicated to cultivating a sense of community stewardship. The youth program engages throughout the school year in collaborations with organizations such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Earth Corps, and Bellevue's Department of Parks and Community Services. During the summer, the youth plan and run a five-day camp for community children; 2016 represents the 27th year of the camp and close to 220 community children will attend. The youth who participate spend the summer designing an eclectic set of community workshops for the community to participate in, including educational and fun-oriented workshops. The IAWW Leadership program is about more than just volunteering and running a camp. The program provides significant long-term value to the cultural community and the greater Bellevue community. Students who have graduated from the program have gone on to receive scholarships at major universities, and they have become leaders locally, nationally and internationally. One primary objective of the program is and always will be to instill a serious sense of responsibility in the future leaders of the community. He said children who come to the camp for the first look up to those running the camp. His job as an advisor is to ensure that each member of the Youth Leadership program leads by example and continues the legacy of building leaders for tomorrow.

Ms. Lalita Uppala, Director of the IAWW Community program, said a typical client could include a 50-something woman who recently lost her spouse and is facing mounting financial and healthcare bills and who is struggling to renew her Indian visa who will be connected with those who can help walk her through the process; or a women with an H4 visa who is new to Bellevue and who is looking forward to carving out a career for herself but who finds herself abandoned because her spouse has discovered she does not have the potential to bring home a six-figure salary without investing in her training, which he does not want to do; he can travel back to India, divorce his wife in Washington state, marry another woman, leaving his first wife alone and in need of help. Or a youth of Indian heritage who is growing up as an American but is facing the struggle of coming to terms with his heritage. IAWW is the only non-profit that is secular, open, integrative, intercultural and intergenerational in its programming approach, and it has been doing it for three decades solely with volunteers. Help is needed, and the hope is that the city will take a big step forward in providing support.

Ms. Helene Wentink with Community Homes, Inc. said the organization provides affordable community based housing for adults with disabilities at seven adult family homes in East King County. Three of those homes are in Bellevue and support 15

residents. ARCH funding in the past has allowed for purchasing and remodeling several of the homes. Homelessness is on everyone's mind currently and the Commission is to be applauded for seeing housing is a priority. Those who are vulnerable need a roof over their heads. Community Homes was not recommended for funding in the initial round. While disappointed, the organization understands that there are limited human service dollars. Those with developmental disabilities would not survive a single night on the streets, and Community Homes works with limited dollars to make sure they are safe and supported. Modern medical advancement is making it possible for persons with developmental disabilities to live longer than ever; many are outliving their parents who have been their main caregivers. Community Homes steps in before a homeless crisis occurs. Grants help the organization cover its operating costs. The city already invests in opportunities for the developmentally disabled to find employment and recreation, and should also invest in helping them to maintain housing stability. The Commission was urged to reconsider the Community Homes funding request which is directly aligned with two of the four main focus areas.

Mr. Rich Stolz, Executive Director of OneAmerica, addressed the English Innovations program, which was not recommended for funding. He explained that after years of researching ESL programs, it is clear that the effective programs focus on ESL retention strategies. OneAmerica has developed an ESL model that focuses less on traditional grammatical learning and more on project- and game-based learning that is integrated with digital literacy. The model has the element of the in-class educational opportunities and self-paced at-home learning. The model has been tested and demonstrated in a number of different locations and has been shown to be very successful in helping individuals improve their language skills. Digital integration helps students by not only developing language skills but by also developing their technology skills. High beginning and low intermediate learners are targeted; they are the students who are often not competent enough to enroll in formal programs or community college settings and who are unable to take on job training or GED classes. The OneAmerica program partners with local business Tutta Bella, making the program site based. The work setting environment allows for the employer to contribute to the goals of the students relative to language learning. The program is not bound by state and federal deliverables; the focus is squarely on the needs of improving language learning.

Ms. Elizabeth Vasquez Hein with OneAmerica allowed that there are several ESL programs offered in the Bellevue area and the goal of bringing the English Innovations program to the Crossroads neighborhood is aimed at addressing the growing need of English language learners, particularly those who are the hardest to reach, and to serve as a bridge on the path to immigrant integration connecting students to other English language opportunities. The organization is enthusiastic about partnering with other agencies and programs and has been in contact with some, including ELLA and Hopelink. Other agencies have expressed a need for additional ESL programming to complement the services they provide, such as being able to refer students that their programs may not be serving in exactly the right way

they need; they have also indicated they have heard their students face geographic and financial barriers, along with challenges associated with skill and confidence level barriers to certain programs. OneAmerica would like to offer an additional option that would be free of charge to serve individuals who are facing barriers to existing programs. ELLA is a volunteer-run organization that offers a weekly two-hour conversation group with a focus on helping students find more structured programming. Hopelink offers English for work and GED classes, but in order to get into those classes students must be at a level six; English Innovations targets levels two and three. Goodwill Bellevue will soon be reducing their job training ESL classes and that will leave a gap. Bellevue College is inaccessible for many, especially low-income English Language Learners who face barriers getting to the campus. Jewish Family Service focuses on ESL for job training, and Jubilee Reach has more of a talk time focus and meets for only three hours per week. English Innovations offers a curriculum with a broader scope that goes beyond job training and addresses the individual goals of students such as citizenship, more parent engagement, and preparing for GED classes. Crossroads is a convenient ideal location where immigrants are already gathering. The program also offers a strong digital literacy component.

Mr. Ian Kasman with Tutta Bella said the business was one of the first participants in the English Innovations program in 2011. The program offers a method of learning that utilizes technology that allows Tutta Bella employees to learn English at their own pace with help from peers and teachers. The classes were scheduled between the lunch and dinner shifts to maximize attendance, and Tutta Bella donated the space. Learning in a restaurant rather than in a classroom allows the students to be more relaxed and learn language through socializing along with the more traditional methods. The classes are open to family members and others from the community. Two students eventually became kitchen managers for Tutta Bella. One student who had been a busser became comfortable interacting with customers. He said he is a big fan of the program which is clearly changing lives in many ways, both expected and unexpected. It is a cost-effective and results-oriented method of helping employees and others acclimate to their communities and workplaces.

Ms. Alyssa Midgley with Community Homes said the organization was started by a long-term Bellevue family who saw the need for housing for people with developmental disabilities. It began with one home and five residents and has grown to serve more than 45 residents on the Eastside. The need is growing while support from the state is becoming less and less. She asked the Commission to keep the organization in mind in the future.

Mr. Rich Bowen, Director of Renewal Food, thanked the Commission for recommending to continue supporting the work of the agency.

Ms. Angela Murray with Sophia Way thanked the Commission for recommending funding the program at the requested level. The most recent One Night Count uncovered the fact that the number of people surviving outside without shelter in King

County was 4505, a 19 percent increase over the previous year; 245 of the total were counted on the Eastside. Those counted included families with babies and school-aged children, people in wheelchairs, people sleeping on buses, and senior citizens. While only 271 of the total number were women, there was an additional 2980 who were counted as gender unknown, and it is possible many of them were women dressed in multiple layers to keep warm or in a way that makes gender identification difficult because women on the street are all too often victims of physical violence and/or sexual assault. During the week of the One Night Count, 23 women called Sophia Way desperately seeking shelter. The day of the One Night Count, there were 41 women at the Sophia Way day center where they could shower, do their laundry, and get connected to vital human services. While the count was under way, there were 21 women safe and warm in the shelter; 19 women came off the street and were able to get a hot meal; and 42 individuals, including babies and children, stayed at the family emergency shelter. The city is part of the complex solution aimed at alleviating the crisis of homelessness King County is experiencing. The recommended full funding will allow for opening the day center on the weekends and the provision of case management, hygiene services, food and a safe, warm place for women on Saturdays and Sundays.

Ms. Linda Hall spoke representing Elder and Adult Day Services (EADS) as well as LifeWire. She thanked the Commission for recommending funding for EADS and LifeWire. The value the Commission places on the services is truly appreciated. The Housing Stability program offered by LifeWire is critical to ensuring that survivors of domestic violence can be safely and quickly housed and avoid homelessness.

Mr. Dwight Jackson, Director of Shelter Services for Congregations for the Homeless, thanked the Commission for the recommended financial support that helps the organization help people on the Eastside who are experiencing homelessness gain the stability of supportive connections and permanent housing. The program serves a number of remarkable men who have been productive in the community, men who have in their lives done amazing things. Many have suffered catastrophic loss and grief. Grieving directly affects purpose, motivation and hope, making life appear meaningless. Congregations for the Homeless offers a structure of shelter, housing and people who support healing, regaining strength and confidence, and rebuilding a network of supportive connections. With continued funding, the agency will be able to help over a thousand individuals in the coming year. Sixty-four percent of the men who participate in the year-round case management program graduate into permanent housing. The men in the subsidized housing program have a 98 percent success rate of maintaining ongoing housing for a year or more.

Mr. Jacob Wicks, Senior Attorney with the King County Bar Association's Housing Justice Project. He thanked the Commission for funding the program in the past. The project is an eviction defense clinic. Staff, volunteer attorneys and non-attorney volunteers provide free legal assistance to low-income tenants facing eviction in King County. Clients are received on a walk-in basis and no appointment is necessary. The clinics are located in the courthouses where the evictions take place. Everyone

facing eviction who shows up to court are directed by the court to contact the project. Providing same-day representation allows the attorneys the unique opportunity for face-to-face negotiation with the other side, which is a very productive way to resolve cases. The project also provides representation in court for the tenants. The eviction process in Washington can take as little as 15 days from the notice to the sheriff getting the tenant out the door. It is very important that tenants have representation; even where the tenancy cannot be saved, it is often possible to work a deal and give the tenant time to find a new place to live. The project sees a lot of elderly, disabled low-income folks.

Ms. Dorothy Wong, Executive Director of Chinese Information and Service Center, thanked the Commission for funding the Cultural Navigator program over the years and for recommending continued funding. The program helps newly arrived immigrants make a successful transition by helping them navigate the system of services they need. Bellevue is a community that welcomes newcomers from all over the world, but even so immigrants face many challenges on their arrival, including accessing affordable healthcare, housing, transportation and jobs. The Cultural Navigator Program offers them a warm and friendly embrace from someone who speaks their language and understands their culture. The Cultural Navigator sites are located where they can be easily accessed by public transportation. The staff follow up with their clients and form strong relationships. They serve as advocates and where necessary file complaints on behalf of their clients with the housing authority, and inform their clients about how to safeguard their lives and properties by teaching them how to call the police, ambulance or fire department, and what to do in case of natural disaster. They also provide basic assistance and information about legal issues. They save people from becoming victims of unscrupulous lawyers, and they partner with other service providers in the area. The main areas of assistance are employment, housing, medical needs, food and education. In October 2015, the Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition (ERIC) convened a group of stakeholders to do a SWAT assessment of the Cultural Navigator program. One key element identified was how few hours are dedicated to the program manager who is responsible for doing the basic work of supervision, training and support of cultural navigators. Additional funding is needed to do the work and to strengthen the program.

Ms. Sandra Williams with Solid Ground thanked the Commission for consideration of the agency's application and asked for reconsideration of the Commission's recommendation not to fund the Cooking Matters program. She said funding food banks is crucial for meeting the immediate needs of the community and alleviating hunger. However, food banks alone cannot do everything. There are times where people do not use the food banks and the Cooking Matters program teaches individuals the skills they need to cook healthy meals in their homes, how to shop on a budget, and how to make food dollars stretch farther.

Ms. Judy Faast with Hopelink noted that the Needs Update highlights the fact that more than 25 percent of Bellevue's households have incomes of less than \$50,000,

and the percentage of families below the federal poverty level increased over the last ten years from 3.8 percent to 5.7 percent. In 2016, support from the Commission allowed Hopelink to improve the lives of nearly 5500 Bellevue residents through the provision of services that helped stabilize those in crisis and tools that helped people exit poverty. Hopelink appreciates the continued support of the Commission and for its leadership in human services in King County.

Ms. Neeti Mittal, President of the Indian Association of Western Washington, said as a resident of Bellevue for 17 years and working as a physician, she has seen the people the city is struggling to help. IAWW wants to be a key partner with the city in helping new immigrants bridge the gaps and integrate better into society. She said new arrivals who see people who talk like them, speaks like them and eat like them will find a natural attraction and seek help from them. IAWW signed a memorandum with the City of Bellevue for use of the North Bellevue Community Center in the hope of attracting those people. IAWW wants the city to partner in helping to make the community a better place to live.

Mr. Matt Valdespino with HERO House thanked the Commission for recommending funding for the program. He asked the Commission to consider increased funding commensurate with the expected growth for the coming years. HERO House works to assist individual adults with severe mental illness in returning to the workforce. Nationwide the unemployment rate for individuals with severe mental illness is 85 percent; in King County it is 90 percent, but for those in the HERO House program, the unemployment rate drops to 60 percent. Employment is more than a paycheck, it is a powerful destigmatization mechanism. Funding from the city makes that possible, but the need is growing. The vast majority of program members are from the Bellevue area and as the needs grow the programs need to grow. The number of individuals in need of services in the 18-25 age range has increased; those in the age range are particularly vulnerable and by providing a communal structure and direction can set them on the right track.

Ms. Joleen Aycock with the Salvation Army was joined by Mr. David Aycock and noted that they had just been appointed as the new administrators and pastors of the Eastside Corps. On behalf of the Salvation Army Eastside Corps, she thanked the Commission for its past support and recommended funding. The funds are used to address the needs of the Eastside community. The agency is constructing a new building for the specific purpose of meeting the needs in the community.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner Mercer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Villar and the motion carried unanimously.

BREAK

7. DISCUSSION

A. Further Discussions of Human Services Funding Recommendations

Commissioner Kline said she would favor finding more funding for IAWW, a group that has shown tremendous productivity over the years with an all volunteer staff. The organization could do far more if they had funding to pay their staff.

Commissioner Mercer said she was initially in favor of allocating more to the program. She noted that she had been persuaded to go with a lower amount given the budget constraints and the fact that the agency has not previously made application to the city. A number of new organizations that submitted applications have not been recommended for funding at all, but IAWW hit the bar and the Commission recognized them for their effort. She said the challenge would be in determining which application should be given less so that IAWW could be given more.

Commissioner Bruels commented that the organization clearly has persistent advocates.

Chair McEachran said he was impressed to hear how long the organization has been in operation on the Eastside. He added that their collaborative impact is impressive and encouraging.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly pointed out that the organization is receiving a considerable in-kind donation from the city in terms of being allowed to use space at the North Bellevue Community Center. They use the space all day Thursdays, making it impossible to offer other programming at the center.

Chair McEachran asked if the agency does any fundraising. Commissioner Villar allowed that the program gets a lot of matching hours through Microsoft and other corporations.

There was consensus to leave the recommended funding level for the IAWW application unchanged.

Commissioner Mercer said she had been impressed by OneAmerica, particularly given that they took the Commission's collaborative impact emphasis to heart. The model is certainly an interesting one in which it involves an employer and employees. She noted that while the program is innovative, she was unclear as to whether or not it is just for Tutta Bella employees, or if it is open to the broader community. Commissioner Kline said her impression after hearing from the representatives during the public hearing that the program is offered primarily for Tutta Bella employees and their families. Ms. O'Reilly said that is not what was spelled out in the application.

Commissioner Mercer said she would support adding funding for the OneAmerica application should additional funds be found.

Commissioner Bruels said he agreed the program should be kept on the Commission's radar screen. He said he appreciates the fact that the organization has gathered information to allow for comparing and contrasting what they offer against what others offer. Of course, what other agencies might say about their own programs could differ widely from how OneAmerica characterized them.

Chair McEachran commented that while he knows more about the Bellevue College program than he probably should, OneAmerica's lack of awareness of what the other programs offer is stunning. They clearly took seriously a list of programs and touched base with some of them, but there continue to be multiple misconceptions with regard to what is happening at Bellevue College.

There was consensus to leave the recommended funding level for the OneAmerica application unchanged.

Commissioner Kline commented that the representative from Community Homes came across with more of a focus on housing than they have in the past. She suggested that the application could be added to the list for possible additional funding.

Commissioner Mercer agreed that the program would broaden the ask and show the Council the focus includes homelessness that addresses specific needs.

Ms. Leslie commented that the representative tied their program to the Commission's funding focus areas. She said that would be a better tie to funding the program than is the issue of homelessness.

Commissioner Kline said she was somewhat surprised after missing the last meeting to see that funding for the new ask from AtWork! had been funded. She said she would rather see some dollars moved.

Commissioner Bruels asked if the fact that the Commission initially recommended against funding the Community Homes application would preclude the Commission from being able to fund it at all even if the application were to be added to the additional funding list and the worst happens and the Council does not come back with new dollars. Commissioner Villar responded by saying that moving the application to the additional funding list will not change the Commission's initial recommending funding level. She pointed out that the application does not fit neatly onto the additional funding list.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that the agency has in the past received city dollars in the form of ARCH funds.

There was consensus to leave the recommended funding level for the Community Homes application unchanged.

Commissioner Kline said she was not opposed to funding AtWork! but said she could see more of an impact for the disability demographic through Community Homes. Ms. Leslie said AtWork! was funded for two programs previously but chose not to submit a request for one of those programs. Essentially, their application sought to take the funds that had been allocated to both programs and applying it to only the one program. Commissioner Kline observed that the reason for the shift was that folks were aging out of their ability to work. The program was focused on a very small number of clients and the cost per individual was quite high. Ms. Leslie noted the agency asked for funding for the second program two years ago but the Commission elected not to fund it.

Chair McEachran said the presentation by the representative of the King County Bar Association for the Housing Justice Project was enlightening. He did not, however, recommend changing the funding level for the application.

Commissioner Mercer asked if it would be in bad form for the Commission to chose to revise the funding level for any of the applications following the public hearing. Ms. Leslie clarified that the Commission's recommendations up to the public hearing are considered to be preliminary and as such can be changed. The public hearing provides the opportunity to receive input regarding the proposed funding levels, following which they are free to make changes. She allowed that increasing funding for one application will trigger the need to reduce the funding for another application.

Commissioner Kline suggested some of the applications could see their funding shaved a bit and the balance added to the additional funding list. She highlighted applications 7, Congregations for the Homeless, Eastside Winter Shelter; 10, Outreach; and 19, Hopelink, housing; and 21, Imagine Housing, Resident Services. She suggested any funds freed up could be allocated to something else.

Ms. Leslie said the applications put on the additional funding list are not just those related to homelessness, but they are all related to the permanent shelter given that it is a Council priority. The Council also has a real interest in homelessness prevention programs so they were added to the list as well. She cautioned that additional funding from the Council is not by any means a sure thing.

Commissioner Perelman urged the Commission not to make the additional funding list too long. She commented that as drafted it already appears to be quite long when compared against the total number of applications. Ms. Leslie suggested the length of the list will not be an issue; the Council will simply look at the bottom line.

Commissioner Bruels agreed and pointed out that if the Council says no, then all the Commission will have to work with will be the budget amount attached to the preliminary funding recommendations.

Commissioner Mercer said she would not have an issue with putting forward a list of what the Commission would like to fund along with an ask. If by the end of August it becomes clear the additional ask will not be anywhere near what was sought, the Commission could spend time focused on the fact that the applications on the additional funding list were of such priority that they were specifically highlighted for the Council and that room in the budget should be found for them in the final recommendation.

Ms. Leslie told the Commissioners that she had arranged the applications on the additional funding list in a priority order that would be more compelling. She invited the Commissioners to weigh in with comments.

Commissioner Villar suggested the day center and shelter items should be shown together. Commissioner Mercer agreed.

Ms. Leslie reminded the Commissioners that the additional funding list will not be distributed but rather it will serve to provide staff with a sense of the priorities when talking in addressing the list with the Council. She added that she had put the Congregations for the Homeless items near the top because Bellevue has primary responsibility for the programs for homeless men.

Commissioner Villar pointed out that the current shelters for women are located in Bellevue for at least half the time they are open. Ms. Leslie said the year round shelter is in Bellevue, as is the day center. Kirkland has responsibility for the permanent shelter for women and families. The New Bethlehem Day Center is in Kirkland, and there is another day center for families that is operated by Union Gospel Mission that just opened in Kirkland. Redmond has the young adult shelter.

Commissioner Mercer commented that the way the additional funding list is laid out in priority order, one could assume that any additional funding received will be applied to the list from top to bottom until the funds are exhausted. Ms. Leslie said she could redraft it in narrative form instead, but reiterated that the list will only be used by staff in making the presentation. She added that it would be premature to decide how any additional funding should be applied to the items on the list until it is known how much, if any, additional funding there will be.

The Commissioners made no changes to the draft additional funding list.

Ms. Leslie called the attention of the Commissioners to written testimony that had been received prior to the public hearing from Housing Development Consortium (HDC) and Imagine Housing.

Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano informed the Commissioners that Camp Korey had withdrawn its application. The organization is purchasing a large property north of Everett and will no longer be in the Carnation area.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 21, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Villar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kline and the motion carried unanimously.

B. June 28, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Villar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kline and the motion carried without dissent; Commissioner Bruels abstained from voting because he had been absent from the meeting.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. O'Reilly called attention to an email response from the Puget Sound Regional Council that she had forwarded to the Commissioners earlier in the day. She said she had asked them to provide the Commission with a copy of the risk assessment tool they use to determine the slot allocations, and noted that they had complied. She said she had also asked to see the risk assessments for the various sites to see how they stack up, and the District agreed to provide it after August 31.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Leslie said she participated recently in two meetings focused on homelessness with her counterparts from other cities. One was a presentation to the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council (EISCC) on the topic of panhandling. There is a workgroup that has been working on how different cities address panhandling, something that has been an issue in Bellevue from time to time. EISCC staff gathered data and shared it with the group who explored the idea of the cities pursuing a community education campaign aimed at encouraging people to give to organizations and services rather than directly to panhandlers. The City of Redmond just recently launched a community education campaign on homelessness called All In All Home Redmond. The program includes suggestions for making up care kits to hand to people instead of giving them money.

Ms. Leslie said the other meeting was with an Eastside group of police and human services staff that has been meeting periodically for about the last year to talk about homeless issues and how the various issues are addressing homelessness. The topic of the meeting was a regional approach to siting encampments. Tent City 4 arrived in Bellevue earlier in the day at Temple B'Nai Torah where it will be until the end of September. Camp Unity, the other permitted encampment, has had difficulty in finding locations. Each city has their own rules on how long the camps can stay, and

the process is different in every city. There has been an interest in developing a consistent approach for each jurisdiction. Redmond has been working on an encampment ordinance but has chosen to put it on hold to allow for considering a regional perspective. Bellevue is operating under a consent decree that will expire in January 2017, so the Bellevue Council will have to consider whether or not changes to its guidelines will be in order. In addition to a uniform approach to siting the camps, there is a desire to develop a schedule so everyone will know where the camps will be for the next two years.

10. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bruels. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Villar and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair McEachran adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date