

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

July 8, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Huenefeld Gese, Commissioners Beighle, Bruels, Hoople, Plaskon, Stout, Yantis

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Joseph Adriano, Megan Farwell, Department of Parks and Community Services

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chair Huenefeld Gese who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Plaskon who arrived at 6:33 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 15, 2010

Commissioner Stout called attention to the last paragraph on page 3 and suggested the second sentence should read "The program is essential to support bonding..." Turning to page 5, the penultimate paragraph, she noted "...more dollars necessary..." should read "...more dollars than necessary..." With regard to the last paragraph on page 7, she suggested the last sentence should be revised to read "The program receives in-kind support from the Bellevue School District as well." Finally, turning to page 13, the second paragraph of the discussion of application 85, she asked to have the first sentence revised to read "Commissioner Stout said she would like to know why the school district no longer provides school-to-work transition services for this special needs population."

Commissioner Hoople called attention to the fourth paragraph from the bottom on page 17 and asked that it be revised to read “Commissioner Hoople pointed out that the program is conducted in a church but is not operated as a church.” He also noted that in the first paragraph under the discussion of application 102 on page 19 that “increase I funding” should read “increase in funding.”

Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Stout. Second was by Commissioner Hoople and the motion carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Stout bragged that her son, a Bellevue High School graduate, recently had a 15-minute interview on NPR’s *Talk of the Nation*, and was featured on both ABC news and NBC news with regard to the Russian spy case.

Commissioner Bruels said he attended the MIDD Oversight Committee meeting on June 24. Judge Barbara Linde was elected co-chair along with Shirley Havenga. A presentation was given by Bill Block from the Committee to End Homelessness; he noted that the mid-point of the Ten-Year Plan has been reached and things are moving forward at a good pace. To date, 4000 units have either been constructed or are in the pipeline. It was also reported at the meeting that the Mental Health Court will be expanded to include the Issaquah District Court; an open house is scheduled for July 9.

Commissioner Hoople said he along with Human Services Planner Alex O’Reilly and intern Megan Farwell met recently with Joel Estey, Outreach Coordinator for the King County Veterans Program, to look at having a focus on programs for women veterans in the fall.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie reported that Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano had been accepted to the executive MPA program at the Dan Evans School of Public Affairs.

Human Services Planner Alex O’Reilly said she recently attended a training session sponsored by the Coalition for Refugees from Burma. She noted that more and more refugees from that country are coming to the United States, and many are being settled in Washington state. The need for translators is great given that some five different distinct languages are spoken in Burma.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Preliminary General Fund Recommendations for 2011-2010

Ms. Leslie said the public hearing has been scheduled for July 20; at that time, the public will be asked to comment on the Commission's preliminary funding recommendations for both the CDBG applications and the general fund applications. Following the public hearing, the Commission will need to vote on the final recommendation.

The contingency plan for how to react in the event there is either more or less funding available will not be part of the public hearing, nor will the potential special request to the Council for additional funds. By September there will be a better read on how the budget process is going to play out.

Ms. Farwell called attention to the fact that the actual 2010 award for application 70, Healthpoint Medical Program, was \$66,574. Their new proposal rolls together two previous proposals, and the starting value shown was incorrect. That change brings the dollars above COLA for the application to \$2,228.

Ms. Farwell pointed out that the applications that were reviewed earlier in the process were disproportionately more likely to receive full funding. That could be because the Commission was putting more of an emphasis on Goal 1, or because of funding fatigue as the process went on and the available dollar supply was reduced.

A total of 29 applications were flagged for additional review, and the three selected to be funded were all new requests. Most of the proposals came from 22 different agencies, and as a result about 82 percent of the total available funds were earmarked for one-third of the agencies that submitted applications.

Ms. Leslie pointed out that the amount of funds the Commission recommended beyond COLA totaled \$19,232. She suggested that if the Commission were to go back and adjust downward those applications earmarked for more than COLA, some funds could be freed up for allocation to the COLA-plus or other applications.

Commissioner Stout commented that there were a number of programs under Goal 1 that directly address recession impacts. Certainly the applications in the first goal area addressed some of the most compelling human needs. She said she was not uncomfortable with the emphasis placed on those programs.

Referring to the applications marked for zero funding, Commissioner Stout said the only one that caused her some concern was number 77, Sea Mar Community Health Center, given the growing need in the Hispanic community for healthcare. She recommended including Sea Mar in the base funding package. As an offset, she proposed reducing the allocation to application 70, Healthpoint Medical Program.

Ms. Farwell reiterated that the Commission had recommended an allocation to the Healthpoint Medical Program application that exceeds the COLA amount by \$2228.

Commissioner Yantis observed that applications 70 and 77 arguably serve the same functions, though not the same ethnic populations. Commissioner Stout agreed and added that part of what Sea Mar offers is very culturally competent services to a specific population. Providing some level of funding to Sea Mar would assist the agency in leveraging other funds. Chair Huenefeld Gese argued that it would be a big oversight not to fund Sea Mar.

Commissioner Hoople called attention to application 100, Kindering Center Outreach Program, and pointed out that the Needs Update highlighted the need for such programs given the increasing rates of autism in the community. He said he would not argue for including funding for the program as part of the basic allocation but would add it to the list for which to seek additional funding from the Council.

Commissioner Bruels asked Commissioner Stout if she was arguing in favor of funding Sea Mar at the requested \$10,000 level. Her response was that that would be the most cost effective for the agency.

Chair Huenefeld Gese suggested pulling \$10,000 from the \$19,232 of allocations beyond COLA. Commissioner Yantis said he would not object to taking that approach for those applications where there was only a relatively small difference between COLA and full funding. He pointed out, however, that funding Sea Mar will not represent a one-time-only allocation and will mean having to fund the agency for years to come. He also observed that as an agency Sea Mar has an annual budget of more than \$1 million and the \$10,000 request is peanuts by comparison.

Commissioner Bruels noted that the narrative in the application submitted by Sea Mar essentially said that a decision by Bellevue not to fund them would have no effect on their delivery of services. Commissioner Stout said while that may be true, not funding the agency would send a political statement that the city is not open to serving the particular population. Chair Huenefeld Gese concurred; she pointed out that Sea Mar is a big player and funding them would be a positive statement from Bellevue.

Commissioner Beighle pointed out that the city does fund programs that serve and support the Latino community. The World Impact Network is a very good example.

Ms. Leslie stated that Sea Mar has been trying to gain a presence on the Eastside and specifically in Bellevue for many years. The large agency is headquartered in south Seattle and serves a broad scope of populations. She suggested the agency likely would not be trying so hard to move into Bellevue if there was a need for the services it offers.

Commissioner Plaskon observed that \$10,000 will not mean a lot to the organization. The fact is there are a number of programs operating in Bellevue that need money. An allocation of \$10,000 could make a big difference in other areas. The city is facing a difficult funding year and it may not be the right time to make a political statement of that magnitude. He agreed that the agency is a good one that is addressing an identified need and suggested that if the allocation is to be made, it should be carved out of the \$19,232 COLA overages.

Commissioner Hoople suggested the remaining \$9,232 could be allocated to application 90, the Bellevue School District Early Learning and After School Program. That would help to balance out the allocations among the goal areas.

Commissioner Beighle pointed out that approach would take funding away from application 42, the Crisis Clinic 2-1-1 Community Information Line. Chair Huenefeld Gese commented that the decision by the Commission to fully fund the application was because the program had taken a funding hit from King County, and because the Needs Update identified information as a top need.

The Commission worked through the applications for which an allocation greater than COLA had preliminarily been made and backed out the overages. There was agreement not to reduce the overages from applications 5, 7, 18, 21, 31, 42, 46, 56 and 70, and to take the overages from applications 16, 19, 26, 28, 38, 43, 45, 50, 51, 52, 54, 79, 80 and 96, which yielded \$6,551.

There was unanimous agreement to allocate the \$6,551 to application 77, Sea Mar Community Health Centers.

The Commission focused next on developing a scenario for how to adjust the allocations in the event of 10.8 percent, or \$275,099, less than the projected amount.

Chair Huenefeld Gese suggested the first step should be to reduce every application that is earmarked for more than a COLA increase. She said the second step would then be to not fund any new agency or program, then as a third step taking a percentage from every application across the board, if necessary.

Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano noted that reducing all of the COLA overages and removing any new agency or program would come up short of reducing the total allocation of \$275,099. He said it would take an additional uniform reduction across the board of six percent or so to get there.

Commissioner Yantis observed that if the Commission wanted to fund application 9, Sophia's Home, application 10, Sophia's Place, and application 27, Andrew's Glen, it would take removing the COLA overages and an across the board reduction of closer to nine percent. Under that scenario, the across the board reduction would have to include those three applications as well.

There was agreement not to fund any new agency or program, to remove the COLA overages, and to effect a reduction across the board by the percentage necessary to reach an overall reduction of \$275,099.

Attention was given next to developing a package of programs for which to seek additional one-time funds from the Council in order to address recession impacts. Chair Huenefeld Gese noted that the list previously generated by the Commission had allocations totaling \$112,000. She said the addition of application 100, Kindering Center Outreach Program as suggested by Commissioner Hoople would increase that total.

Commissioner Yantis said he would like to have application 91, Bellevue Boys & Girls Club Project Learn, as well.

Commissioner Hoople pointed out that the Kindering Center Outreach Program is focused on outreach to families who are homeless or living in shelters, a population that does not receive autism testing through traditional programs.

Ms. Leslie explained that the staff-proposed list contained funding only for programs that fit the recession impact topic and that if not funded again would not hurt the agency or the core program by going to pay for staffing. She said that was the reason the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club Project Learn and the Kindering Center Outreach Program had not been included; both of those would pay for staffing costs.

Commissioner Plaskon allowed that the Kindering Center Outreach Program is a good program, but pointed out that the amount of funding requested would pay for visits with only 20 or 30 families. He suggested it would be difficult to argue that the program fits the recession impact definition. Chair Huenefeld Gese argued that the parents of children with autism may be having trouble keeping jobs because of their need to care for their children. Children diagnosed as being autistic through the outreach program could be enrolled in the Kindering Center services, which would then permit the parent to find employment.

Commissioner Yantis concurred with Commissioner Plaskon. He said it would be difficult to sell the program as a good fit with the recession impact category. If the Commission feels strongly the program should be funded, it should be included as a funded program as part of the projected budget.

The conclusion reached was that the list of programs totaling \$112,000 should be presented to the Council as the basis for a request for additional funding.

Ms. Leslie asked the Commissioners to review the preliminary contingency plan for CDBG funding.

Motion to approve the contingency plan as drafted was made by Commissioner Yantis. Second was by Commissioner Hoople and the motion carried unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS – None
8. NEW BUSINESS – None
9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None
10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Huenefeld Gese adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date