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

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Perelman who arrived at 6:18 p.m. Commissioner Kline participated via telephone.

3. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner McEachran reported that the Wilburton commercial area CAC report was delivered to the City Council on July 2. The plan is called out as being a bold land use vision that adds capacity and additional opportunity for incentivized housing, and collaborative housing based on the technical advisory group.

Commissioner Ma said he recently learned that Sophia Way was awarded $100,000 from Symetra. Human Services Manager Alex O’Reilly said those funds could possibly be used to keep their shelters open during the summer
5. DISCUSSION

A. Round 2 of Application Review – Goal 5

Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano informed the Commissioners that after completing the review of the Goal 5 applications it would be possible to take a quick look at the big picture. She said the Commission’s meeting on July 17 will entail getting into the nitty gritty of finalizing the preliminary recommendation.

Ms. O'Reilly called attention to the email she sent around to the Commissioners that included a response from the City Attorney in regard to the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS). She also pointed out the memo in the desk packet from the City Attorney regarding faith-based organizations in general. She said she sent the mission statements from each of the faith-based applicants to the City Attorney to review.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that she had also forwarded to the Commissioners an email from the MAPS treasurer in which he answered questions asked by the Commission. To the question of whether or not the organization would consider having its next Form 990 produced by an outside party, the answer given was yes. The email also answered the question of what they meant by a hybrid financial review. In a separate email received from Ms. Sharif, the question of whether or not the organization requires any religious activity in order to receive services was answered no.

81. AtWork! : AtWork! - Community Inclusion

Chair Mercer noted the ask was 266 percent more than the previous allocation to the program.

Commissioner Oxrieder pointed out that the program lost its United Way funding, but suggested the increase in the ask was overly high. She said she would support going with $25,000 or $30,000.

Commissioner Piper said he would recommend a COLA increase. Chair Mercer and Commissioners Ma and McEachran concurred.

Commissioner Ma agreed that the service provided by the program is unique. However, the number of residents served is quite low.

Commissioner Kline said she was disappointed that the agency was not asking other cities to fund the program. She agreed that the service is very important and said she is in support of the program. She also agreed, however, that the program serves very few Bellevue residents. She said she could support holding the application flat to let the agency know they should be seeking funds from other jurisdictions.
There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase, and to pass along a recommendation that the agency seek funding from other jurisdictions for the program.

82.  AtWork! : AtWork! - Community Liaison

Chair Mercer commented that the ask represented a 17 percent increase over the previous allocation amount. She pointed out that the agency is seeking funding from other cities for the program.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

83.  Bellevue College: Center for Career Connections

Commissioner Piper recommended a COLA increase.

Commissioner Ma recommended fully funding the request, noting that the program is aligned with many of the city’s goals. Bellevue College serves a majority of minorities, immigrants and people who are looking to become employed.

Commissioner McEachran agreed the application should be fully funded. He said Bellevue College does an excellent job of navigating all of their students through the system. Inevitably the result is students moving into certificated programs.

Chair Mercer said she would support full funding, and Commissioner Piper said he would not object to that.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

84.  Bellevue College: Head Start

Chair Mercer said the ask represented a 25 percent increase.

Commissioner Oxbrieder pointed out that the program is serving more than expected. She recommended fully funding the application. Commissioner Piper concurred.

Commissioner McEachran said Bellevue College is one of the city’s largest neighborhoods and it only makes sense to reach out to Bellevue people through the college.

Chair Mercer said she liked the fact that they were seeking funding from Issaquah as well. She said she would support full funding.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.
85. Bellevue College: Preparing for Work

Chair Mercer commented that the increase in the ask was significant.

Commissioner Oxrieder asked if faculty wages was the driving factor behind the increase in the request. Commissioner Piper allowed that it is.

Commissioner Piper recommended a COLA increase based on the questions that were asked and answered. He said he understood the increase in the request given the increase in instructor salaries, but the service units remain flat.

Commissioner McEachran said they can only serve so many, which limits the number of service units. He noted that he had recused himself relative to the application.

Chair Mercer recommended a COLA increase. Commissioners Oxrieder and Ma concurred.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

86. Bellevue School District: Early and Extended Learning Program

Chair Mercer said the request represented an increase of 35 percent.

Commissioner Ma noted that Commissioner Perelman had previously questioned whether the city should be involved in funding the Bellevue School District, which could be getting funding from other sources. He allowed that the program is important but shared the concern about the city funding a district program.

Commissioner Perelman said she could support a COLA increase.

Chair Mercer commented that the need is high and she would support moving additional dollars into the program should more funding be received.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that the program received $96,000 from Best Start for Kids, and she said she thought that represented new money that did not replace another funding stream. Commissioner Perelman said the program previously lost Head Start dollars which were replaced by the Bellevue Schools Foundation for the last year or so. The increase in the ask is intended in part to mitigate those funds. They have access to sources of dollars that other organizations do not have. She added that she would like to see the program target its dollars to the most needy families, but that is not how they are set up.

Chair Mercer agreed that the increase in tuition and fees means there are more kids paying for the program, and that means Bellevue dollars can be used to help offset costs for those who cannot afford to pay.
Commissioner Perelman pointed out that it cannot be said for sure that the district can seek and obtain funding from the levy for the program.

Commissioner Kline asked about the program’s wait list and Chair Mercer called attention to the staff review in which it was stated that there is a tuition assistance process and that any family can request assistance along with documentation of their household income. Commissioner Perelman added that it is not necessary to live in Bellevue to be part of the program. She said she has never seen a wait list for the program but said she was aware that when the Foundation funded slots, the program scrambled to find qualified kids to fill them.

Commissioner Ma commented that the district is building two new schools and the population of kids in Bellevue is generally increasing. He said he could support allocating $140,000 to the application. Commissioner McEachran concurred along with Commissioner Oxrieder.

Ms. Catalano said a COLA increase would calculate out at just at $131,550.

Commissioners Kline, Piper and Perelman said they would support a COLA increase.

Chair Mercer broke the tie by agreeing to fund the application at $140,000.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Ma, Chair Mercer noted that all of the funding comes from Bellevue and none from other cities. Ms. O'Reilly added that Bellevue dollars are not used for kids from other cities.

87. Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue: Project Learn & Summer Camp

Chair Mercer noted that the ask represented a 28 percent increase over the previous allocation.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that the budget included in the application is less than the sum of all the funds being sought from the various jurisdictions.

Commissioner Oxrieder observed that the agency intends to expand the program.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

88. Child Care Resources: Child Care Financial Assistance

Chair Mercer said the ask was a 24 percent increase. She also noted the agency is seeking funding from four cities that have not previously funded the program, and it is requesting an increase in funds from Bellevue, Kent and Redmond. The program has a wait list and the increase in the asks is intended to reflect the demand.
Commissioner Perelman asked if the program will be receiving levy funds. Ms. O'Reilly said she did not see any mention of levy funds in the application. Commissioner Perelman recommended flat funding.

Commissioner Oxrieder asked if the number of Bellevue residents served was going up. Chair Mercer said the projections through 2019 are pretty flat.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

89. Child Care Resources: Homeless Child Care Program

Chair Mercer said the ask represents less than a COLA increase. Commissioner Perelman suggested that was probably because their numbers were going down in Bellevue.

Chair Mercer noted that because the program does not offer child care subsidies, the program will not be receiving levy funds.

Commissioner Perelman said she was happy to see the agency is seeking increased funding from other cities, but pointed out that Bellevue is still expected to pay the most.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

90. Child Care Resources: Information and Referral /Technical Assistance

Chair Mercer said the ask represented a three percent increase.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

91. Hopelink: Adult Education

Chair Mercer said the increase in the ask was substantial.

Commissioner Piper suggested the increase in the ask was sizeable particularly given with regard to the small increase in service units.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase, but after discussing the Hopelink employment program application, the decision was made to fund both applications at their respective previous funding levels. (See discussion of #92)

92. Hopelink: Employment

Chair Mercer noted that the ask was also substantial.
Commissioner Perelman pointed out that the program is seeking to add an FTE for which they want the city to pay.

Commissioner McEachran questioned paying for an additional FTE, particularly where the proposed increase in service units is not that substantial. Chair Mercer pointed out that their projected service units, while increased, was less of an increase than for the agency’s adult education program application.

Commissioners Perelman, McEachran and Commissioner Oxrieder suggested only a COLA increase.

Commissioner Kline said she would not go any higher than a COLA, but added that she was not happy with the answer given in regard to the significant decrease in their private donations. Essentially the answer given was that they have enough money from other sources that fundraising is less important.

Commissioner Perelman said she would be willing to consider flat funding to send a message.

Chair Mercer voiced support for adding more to Goal 5 and said employment services is an important place to focus funding.

Commissioner McEachran said he could support flat funding for the application. Commissioners Ma and Piper said they could be convinced to do the same.

Ms. O'Reilly said the flat funding along with a statement in the rationale would be sufficient to send a message to the organization.

Toni Esparza, Assistant Parks Director, pointed out that the agency gave the same answer in regard to fundraising in its application for adult education.

Commissioner Perelman said she would be amenable to keeping both applications flat.

Chair Mercer said the increase in service units for the adult education application was reason enough for her to give the program a COLA increase. She said she was willing to keep the funding for the employment program flat given that the service units are more flat.

Commissioner Ma said he could agree with funding both applications flat.

There was consensus to fund the application at the previous allocation amount.
IKRON of Greater Seattle: Integrated Employment Services

Chair Mercer noted that while the agency has previously submitted an application to Bellevue for funding, the program has not previously been funded.

Commissioner McEachran noted his approval for the fact that the program enjoys a high level of collaboration.

Commissioner Oxrieder said she liked the fact that the program offers mental health services, substance abuse services and employment services together. They also work with clients who have come out of prison.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that their student’s job attainment success rate is higher than Hopelink’s.

Ms. O’Reilly said the agency was fairly new to the Eastside two years ago and that is why they had not previously been funded. Ms. Catalano said they have made a lot of strides since then. Kirkland staff are very impressed with the organization.

Commissioner McEachran said their ask of other cities is good to see. Commissioner Perelman said she was impressed with the increase in their numbers. She said she would support putting $10,000 in the third column.

Chair Mercer said she would support taking that approach if there were some assurance that the Commission would be successful in asking for more money. She said she wanted to see an emphasis given to work programs and as such would want to see the program funded to some degree.

Commissioner McEachran said he could support fully funding the application. Chair Mercer suggested funding it at $10,000 and putting the balance in the third column. Commissioner Piper said he could support that.

Commissioner Kline said she would support going that route only if the total amount allocated for the entire Goal 5 applications does not fall below the previous level. She said the IKRON program is good and she would like to see it funded.

Commissioner McEachran pointed out that the program has grown significantly, is highly collaborative, and is reaching the right population. He said he would go with full funding.

Commissioner Oxrieder agreed. Commissioner Ma concurred as well and said the integrated approach IKRON has is something Hopelink says it is training its staff to do.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.
94. Jewish Family Service: JFS Refugee and Immigrant Services

Chair Mercer said she continued to be confused with regard to how much of the ask is for CDBG funds and how much is for general funds. Ms. Catalano said the program was allocated $56,129 in general funds in 2018 and $130,649 in CDBG funds, which totals $186,778.

Chair Mercer said she would like to see the general fund allocation left flat and the CDBG allocation increased. Ms. Catalano said that could be done, provided that the general fund allocation is not less than $56,129 due to the fact that CDBG dollars cannot be used to replace general fund dollars. She said the preliminary CDBG public service budget for 2019 has been calculated to be $150,750 based on 15 percent of the total. To fully fund the application while leaving the general fund portion flat would mean taking $143,871 from CDBG public service funds.

Ms. O'Reilly said it would be a safe bet to allocate $143,871 in CDBG funds to the application.

Chair Mercer said she favored funding the program, which offers legal services for refugees and immigrants.

Commissioner Kline asked if keeping the general fund allocation for the program flat when other programs are being given a COLA increase would run afoul of the CDBG rules. Ms. Catalano said it would not because the CDBG rules about not replacing general fund dollars with CDBG dollars is based on actual funding.

95. Kindering Center: Kindering - Early Care and Education Consultation (ECEC)

Chair Mercer said the ask is a 66 percent increase over the previously funded level.

Commissioner Perelman noted that the increase in part was intended to cover bringing on a new consultant. Commissioner McEachran said the increase was very large just to hire a new consultant. He proposed a COLA increase.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

96. Kindering Center: Kindering - Families In Transition (FIT)

Chair Mercer said the application was for a new program.

Commissioner Perelman said she was not convinced by the application and appears to involve just throwing more resources at places other resources are already going. She said she would prefer to wait and see if the program will be successful and proposed not funding the application.
Commissioner Oxrieder pointed out that if funded the program would only serve six Bellevue residents.

Commissioner Kline commented that the narrative in the application makes it appear that the focus of the program is on South King County. The residents served numbers do not really bear that out.

Chair Mercer allowed that the program has projected a big increase from six clients served to 20 in Bellevue in 2019.

Commissioner Piper said he would support putting an amount of money in the third column for the application. Commissioner Kline disagreed and suggested the program is not a good fit for extra funding in that it involves something that is not one of the Commission’s focus areas.

Commissioner McEachran said he favored not funding the application.

Commissioner Ma said he found it difficult to follow the description in the application of the services provided. He said the focus is on providing an evaluation of children of homeless families and then referring them to services. However, it is not clear how much the evaluation and referral will actually help the homeless families in transition.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

97. MAPS-Muslim Community Resource Center (MCRC) : Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Chair Mercer said her take on the memo from the City Attorney was that organizations that have religious elements as part of their service delivery cannot be funded. She noted that MAPS had said they do not require anything religious of clients as a condition of receiving services, but said her question was whether or not religion plays a role in the delivery of services. Ms. O’Reilly said the language used by the City Attorney was that funds cannot be used for inherently religious activities.

Commissioner Ma said he believed the agency met that criteria as compared to Salvation Army and other programs funded in the past. He said of the three program applications submitted by MAPS, he would be inclined not to fund their refugee and immigrant assistance program for the reasons he cited previously. That said, the organization answered the Commission’s questions adequately enough. They are willing to have a third party do their tax returns, and they have indicated that MCRC, which is an arm of MAPS, provides human services and not any kind of religious instruction.

Commissioner Kline said the organization’s response was not that they are getting someone to prepare their tax returns, rather it was that they are seeking an auditor to do an audit later in the year. The Commission’s question about the tax returns was
not in fact answered. Additionally, their answer regarding the question asked about hybrid accounting does not stack up in that it is not possible to use both cash basis and accrual basis accounting, it must be one or the other. It is very likely that when the audit is done, some adjustments will have to be made.

Commissioner McEachran suggested that some seed money might open the agency to other funders. He said MAPS is trying to make a difference in working with the immigrant and refugee communities.

Commissioner Perelman said her concern is that it is not completely clear how the agency will be using any funds allocated to them by the city. The agency simply is not mature enough to be able to demonstrate that city dollars will be used wisely. She said she is fully supportive of their mission and the work they are doing in the community.

Chair Mercer clarified that the three applications received from the organization involve their shelter program, their referral program, and their work with refugees and immigrants. Commissioner Ma said what he wanted to see funded was their referral program, which includes some financial assistance.

Chair Mercer said that the organization is good and that it broadens diversity efforts. She said she still struggled with the religious aspects but could be okay with them, and also was concerned about the audit. She agreed with Commissioner Ma to provide some level of funding for the referral program application, but said she would not fund the other two applications.

Ms. Stangland reminded the Commissioners that they had previously concluded the full ask for the referral application, number 51, should be placed in the third column.

Commissioner Perelman said she would prefer to see application 51 given $10,000, with the balance of the ask in the third column.

Ms. O'Reilly reiterated that the third column funds are anything but a sure thing. She said the department had already submitted a budget that included no extras, and she reminded the Commission that the City Manager has mandated that no other asks be submitted. Chair Mercer said she understood that and argued that if an additional ask is formulated, it will need to be very well constructed and fully documented. Ms. O'Reilly said the Commission will not be able to go to the Council and ask for another amount of money. Typically, in November when the Commission’s recommendation is handed to the Council there is a bullet point outlining what could be done with additional dollars.

Commissioner McEachran said there is a strong sense in the Council’s three-year goal priorities to continue implementing the diversity plan and multicultural programs. That could be a point of connection with the Council relative to a special ask. The
Council’s code words are transparency, community input and initiatives for support services.

Chair Mercer agreed that in the next review the Commission may want to revise its initial position relative to application 51. She said the Commission will certainly want to take a careful look at the third column. She said she was hearing from the Commission that of the three MAPS applications, number 51 is the one the Commission intends to fund, either directly or with third column dollars, and that applications 24 and 97 would not be funded.

Ms. Esparza said the agency’s mission statement is to provide Islamic educational, social, educational, social and cultural services to the Muslim community in the region, and to promote the teachings of Islam to the inquiring non-Muslim. At the same time, agency representatives have stated that religious services are not inherent or required before receiving services. She asked if they should simply be taken at their word that they are not following their mission statement.

Commissioner Oxrieder said the Commission has taken the word of the Salvation Army that they are not engaged in religious activities in the delivery of services.

Chair Mercer allowed that several of the Commissioners were struggling with the issue. She said she personally was very concerned that proselytizing was in fact taking place by the agency. The mission statement is clear about the intent of the organization, but the word of the representative has been that a religion component is not required for the delivery of services.

Commissioner Ma said the argument made by MCRC is that the mission statement belongs to MAPS, their parent organization, and that human services delivery does not necessarily have to follow the mission statement directly. He said his suspicions had mostly been resolved by the presentations made and the answers given.

Chair Mercer suggested that even if the agency does not require clients to listen to a sermon in order to receive services, religion likely is still a part of who the agency is and what it does. She said that worries her.

Ms. Catalano commented that Federal Way funded the St. Vincent de Paul program that reaches out to the poor, and that program is housed in the Catholic church. The program administrators do not engage in religious activities in the provision of services. Chair Mercer said that approach is what she is striving for, but said the question is whether or not MCRC has that clear separation.

Commissioner Kline pointed out that MAPS is a 501(c)(3) organization. There is a different classification for churches. An organization would not need to relay a religious message in its mission statement in order to qualify for 501(c)(3) status, so they have leeway to broaden their mission statement and incorporate non-religious activities. They have not, however, chosen to do that.
Ms. Stangland clarified that the mission statement that has been quoted is for MAPS. The guiding principles on the MCRC website, however, do not include any religious references.

Commissioner McEachran said he liked the statement made by Commissioner Ma during the first round in which he suggested that supporting the MAPS program would generate a large community impact regionally and allow the agency the opportunity to demonstrate its capacity to participate in community affairs. He said agency representatives are seen consistently at Sophia Way and Congregations for the Homeless bringing cultural sensitivity to the provision of services. That is not necessarily a negative thing.

Commissioner Oxrieder said she could support funding application 51 at $10,000 and including $10,000 in the third column.

Chair Mercer said she continued to have concerns about the religious issues but was willing to put them aside given the conversation, and given that the same arguments could be made about Salvation Army. She said the fact that their information and referral services are provided at the Together Center makes her a bit more comfortable.

Commissioner Perelman suggested the need to make agency visits to a few organizations, including MCRC, to see their space and operations. She said she also would like to know what stipulations could be put on the money before they get it. The financial issues will be worked out, but the religious issues are worrisome.

Commissioner Kline said one condition should be put on any funding would be to have the agency have its Form 990 done by an professional and independent preparer prior to the Council finalizing the allocations. She said her biggest concern was that the agency failed to answer nearly every question asked by the Commission. Commissioner Perelman said she would add that that in the agency should always be on time in preparing independently reviewed or prepared financial statements.

There was consensus not to fund application 97.

98. MCNA: Training in Coding and Digital Marketing

Chair Mercer said the new program is seeking funding for job training in coding and digital marketing. She said she would prefer to see the program up and running and have some outcomes before considering funding for it.

There was consensus not to fund the application.
99. OneAmerica: English Innovations

Commissioner McEachran pointed out that the exact same application is submitted every funding cycle. It never indicates any collaborative impact.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

100. YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish: Eastside Employment Services

Chair Mercer noted that the ask represented only a modest increase over the previous allocation.

Commissioner Perelman questioned why the agency was not seeking funding from Redmond.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

The Commissioners briefly reviewed the totals for each goal area and the total of the applications placed in the third column.

There was agreement to take up Goal 5 first in the next review round. There also was agreement to fund goal areas 4 and 5 at least at the same level as last time even if the money is somewhat shifted around, and to get crisper about the amount of an additional ask and what it would be for.

Chair Mercer observed that the total earmarked for the applications in Goal 5 totaled less than what was previously allocated to the applications in that goal area.

Commissioner Ma said he felt comfortable with the preliminary recommendations for the Goal 5 applications, noting that there had been consensus on each application. The Commissioners agreed.

With regard to Goal 4, Commissioner Ma suggested a strong argument could be made for more funding for the category.

Commissioner McEachran said he could support increasing the allocation to application 78, the Therapeutic Health Services alcohol and drug treatment program. He said the executive director spoke before the Commission with eloquence about the huge strides they were making. He said that could be one place to increase their allocation to the full amount requested.

Chair Mercer said there was still $57,000 to allocate, an amount that would make the goal area whole.

There was agreement to do that, and to increase the allocation to application 78, Therapeutic Health Services alcohol/drug treatment, to the full amount requested.
Commissioner Perelman said she would support increasing by $5000 the allocations to application 70, IKRON behavioral health services, and application 71, International Community Health Services dental, and reducing the third column for each of those applications by the same amount.

Commissioner Oxrieder said she would prefer to see $5000 pulled from the application 71 third column and moved to application 69, HERO House.

Commissioner Ma voiced support for the proposal made by Commissioner Perelman and said he would not want to see the HERO House allocation increased beyond a COLA increase.

Commissioner McEachran indicated his support for increasing the HERO House allocation as proposed by Commissioner Oxrieder. Chair Mercer and Commissioner Piper agreed. Commissioner Ma agreed that giving an additional $5000 to HERO House might ultimately do more good than giving another $5000 to ICHS dental.

Commissioner Perelman said she would support staying with $51,000 for ICHS dental but also suggested removing the $25,000 from the third column for that application. There was agreement to make that move.

Commissioner Perelman called attention to the third column for the Goal 2 applications and referred specifically to application 45, Eastside Legal Assistance Program, and application 51, MAPS information and referral. She proposed reaching a consensus on those two before adjourning.

Commissioner Ma proposed reducing the MAPS third column amount to $10,000 and increasing the general fund allocation by the same amount. Commissioner Perelman said she could support that, and proposed increasing the ELAP allocation to $49,710, eliminating the third column amount.

Commissioner Perelman noted that with that move the total of the third column amounts was close to negligible. She said the Commission should carefully consider whether it should ask for additional funds or whether it should make some harder decisions with the general fund dollars to reach a balance.

6. OLD BUSINESS – None

7. NEW BUSINESS – None

8. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None
9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Piper. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ma and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Mercer adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

_______________________________________ _______________
Secretary to the Human Services Commission   Date

_______________________________________ _______________
Chairperson of the Human Services Commission  Date