

Urban County Policy Board Meeting Minutes

1300 Franklin Street, Room 679

Vancouver, Washington

February 9, 2015

URBAN COUNTY POLICY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Crummett	City of Battle Ground
Pete Capell	City of Camas
Jeff Sarvis	City of La Center
Mayor Ron Onslow	City of Ridgefield
David Scott	City of Washougal
Bart Stepp	City of Woodland
Mayor Jeff Carothers	Town of Yacolt

GUESTS

Jim Hodges (City of Camas); Bryan Kast (City of Ridgefield); Jan Wichert, Kris Hanson (VHA); Beth Oliver (Columbia River Mental Health Services); Amy Hoernig, Gavin Hottman, Jackie Brock (ESD 112); Dennis Morrow, Chuck Cole, Scott Conger (Janus Youth Programs); Kathy Armstrong (Proud Ground); Sarah Widing, Diane McWhithey, Thomas Breitenbauch (Share); Wanda Nelson (Washougal Meals on Wheels); Fred Dockweiler (Chamni Development); Raymond Baker (Veteran's Affairs); Adam Gratzer (Affordable Housing Solutions); Peggy Sheehan, Danell Norby (City of Vancouver)

STAFF

Pete Munroe, Rebecca Royce, Janet Snook

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Carothers at 8:32 a.m.

I. Introductions

II. Approval of March 10, 2014, and January 12, 2015, Meeting Minutes

Mayor Onslow moved to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2014, meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeff Sarvis. The motion passed.

Mayor Onslow made a motion to approve the January 12, 2015 meeting minutes. David Scott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. CDBG Social Service Presentations

- **Bridgeview Housing Resource and Education Center Construction (Ask: \$100,000)**
Jan Wichert explained Bridgeview's mission is to connect people who have low-income to resources helping them to become self-reliant and self-sufficient. To accomplish this, Bridgeview needs a new Resource Center to serve as a community hub. This Center would house partner agencies to provide education, employment, wellness, and other resources. The Center is expected to serve 2,700 individuals in its first year. The current center is being demolished.
- **Columbia River Mental Health Services Main Clinic Rehabilitation (Ask: \$125,000)**
Over 25 percent of individuals who are homeless have severe mental illness, according to Beth Oliver of Columbia River Mental Health Services (CRMHS). In 2014, CRMHS served 4,482, more than 85 percent having incomes less than 30 percent of the area

Urban County Policy Board Meeting Minutes

1300 Franklin Street, Room 679

Vancouver, Washington

February 9, 2015

median income (AMI). Client traffic increased 18 percent in 2014. CRMHS seeks funding to improve wheelchair accessibility through narrow doorways, to improve security of records and staff, to repair an obsolete HVAC system, and to provide improved space for family therapy with child-friendly spaces.

- **ESDI 12 ECEAP Modular Acquisition (Ask: \$300,000)**
Early Childhood Education and Assistance Programs (ECEAP) provide children from low-income families up to two years of high-quality education to reduce the preparation gap that often leads to failure to graduate and behavioral problems. Jackie Brock and Gavin Hottman shared the need for facilities to provide ECEAP in Clark County. A double-wide modular building is planned for placement on Captain Strong Elementary School land. The building will serve two full-day classes of 20 children each. Operating costs are available from other sources.
- **Janus Youth Programs The Nest Rental Assistance and Case Management (Ask: \$30,000 CDBG and \$75,000 HOME)**
Dennis Morrow, Chuck Cole, and Scott Conger identified youth homelessness as the target group served through The Nest with a 90 percent success rate. The Nest case management provides extensive counseling services to clients, addressing mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, parenting skills, job interviewing, education, and other needs. The program provides assistance for up to two years.
- **Proud Ground Homeownership Acquisition and Renovation (Ask: \$210,000)**
Proud Ground would like to assist three families acquire homes in Clark County. Homes purchased are typically priced between \$200,000 and \$225,000. Proud Ground, as Kathy Armstrong conveyed, helps with the acquisition and initial rehabilitation to reduce long-term maintenance, and provides post-purchase education and support. To qualify, families must be below 81 percent of AMI. Homes purchased through the program remain as permanently affordable housing for future purchasers. Proud Ground currently has 245 homes in its portfolio in the Portland area.
- **Share ASPIRE Rental Assistance and Case Management (Ask: \$50,000 CDBG and \$250,000 HOME)**
Thomas Breitenbauch and Sarah Widing reported that ASPIRE provides case management and rental assistance to approximately 40 households each year. Case management is strengths-based, and clients are held accountable to reaching goals towards housing stability. Classes are offered for drug and alcohol abuse, mental health, employment, budgeting, and finances. The program provides assistance for up to two years. Share has an 80 percent success rate.
- **Vancouver Housing Authority Shelter Improvement Project (Ask: \$117,000)**
The Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA) owns and provides maintenance for three shelters: two operated by Share and one operated by the YWCA, as detailed by Kris Hanson. Due to high usage, the shelters need several improvements including heavy duty flooring, kitchen repairs, CO2 detectors, fire alarms, and HVAC upgrades. Projects have been prioritized by need.

Urban County Policy Board Meeting Minutes

1300 Franklin Street, Room 679

Vancouver, Washington

February 9, 2015

- Washougal Community Center Kitchen Remodel (Ask: \$149,700)
The Meals on Wheels program operates out of the Washougal Community Center and served 120 seniors daily in 2014, according to Wanda Nelson with Meals on Wheels and David Scott with the City of Washougal. This is an 11 percent increase since 2011. It is the only senior center for the region from 192nd Avenue to Skamania. The kitchen does not meet health code standards and will be required to close down if not renovated.

IV. HOME Presentations

- Affordable Housing Solutions Freedom's Path at Vancouver (Ask: \$250,000)
Consultant Fred Dockweiler elaborated the Freedom's Path project is to build a 50-unit residential complex for veterans who are homeless. It will be built on land owned by the Veteran's Administration with a long-term lease, and managed by Pinnacle Management. Adam Gratzer of Affordable Housing Solutions, and Ray Baker, HUD VASH supervisor, shared this is one of 38 sites to be built around the country to provide affordable housing for veterans. Twenty units will be set aside for residents with income less than 31 percent of AMI; 15 units are for those at less than 41 percent of AMI, and 15 units are for those at less than 61 percent of AMI. A recent point-in-time count found 50 veterans who are homeless locally.

V. Other

- The bus tour to view CDBG Infrastructure projects is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2015.
- Available funding amounts for CDBG and HOME will be known February 17, 2015. Pete will provide the updated funding information at the March meeting.
- ZoomGrants scoring for all applications is due by February 27, 2015. Contact Rebecca with any questions.

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mayor Onslow and seconded by David Scott to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.