



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

August 19, 2024

12:00 p.m.

Hybrid – Santiam Room

Approved: September 16, 2024

Call to Order

Chair Courtney Stubbs called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Jim Cole, Larry Timm, Bessie Johnson, Ron Green, Courtney Stubbs, Robyn Davis, Alex Johnson II, Skylar Bailey, Emma Deane (arrived at 12:08 p.m.)

Members absent: John Robledo (excused)

Approval of Minutes for June 17, 2024:

12:01 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Skylar Bailey moved to approve the June 17, 2024 minutes as presented. Commissioner Larry Timm seconded the motion, which passed 8-0.

Scheduled Business:

12:01 p.m.

Agency Consultations

Planner II Beth Frelander opened the floor noting that community service organizations are invited to provide consultation to the Commission to help establish priorities in addressing housing needs, resources and accessing services.

Family Tree Relief Nursery, Executive Director Renee Smith shared that they provide therapeutic early childhood programs with home visitation and outreach along with alcohol and drug recovery classes for parenting in recovery. Family Tree primarily works with early childhood through middle school age children. They see the primary issue in keeping families together is affordable housing and the lack of resources. Many parents are also in substance abuse recovery and needing recovery services. She reported that there are no viable family shelters with space in Albany.

Young Roots Oregon Executive Director Andrea Bartell reported that they echo the concerns from Renee Smith. Young Roots supports pregnant and parenting teens 18-24 years old. They focus on services that provide opportunities for future success through GED programs and life skills courses. The organization ideally wants funding and services to be preventative not reactive, facilitating hope for a better way forward.

Boys and Girls Club of Albany, Director of Program Development, Scott Withers, reported their primary function is providing affordable afterschool care. He noted that the biggest need for lower income families is accessing transportation to and from school and afterschool programs. Withers announced that they are going to start providing before-school care for schools that have later start times.

Felicity Combs, with CASA of Linn County reported some good news in that the CASA advocate numbers have almost doubled. But they struggle not having as many bi-lingual advocates as they need. Their program struggles to get clients into mental health treatment, and domestic violence treatment centers for referrals as those programs often aren't accessible to those needing them.

Commissioner and Executive Director of C.H.A.N.C.E. Emma Deane, shared her experience that the big issues are affordable housing, accessing mental health care, shelter space, and detox treatment. Deane noted that affordable

housing is the biggest steppingstone to working the next steps and so many get stuck in the process with no effective resources.

Commissioner Davis was interested in seeing some of the metrics on the demand for services versus the availability of resources. Davis inquired about what the actual gaps are and where are the successes and failures. Andrea Bartell suggested it might be important to have joint conversations with county and city officials about solutions. Freelander agreed on coordinating those efforts. Catlin shared that there is a working group of people discussing the housing issue in Albany on what how the city can partner with social service organizations to find solutions.

Emma Deane left meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Freelander announced that the first focus group meeting on housing policies and updating development codes will be Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. and September 16, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. before the Community Development Commission meeting on that day. Staff will email out those dates.

2023 CDBG End of Year Reports

12:59 p.m.

Beth Freelander provided the end of year reports to the members for review and staff will report on the performance outcomes at the next meeting.

Business from the Public

1:05 p.m.

(None.)

Business from the Commission

1:05 p.m.

Commissioner Johnson II wanted to report the Veteran Housing Program is moving forward with new housing units coming available.

Next Meeting Date

September 16, 2024, 6:00 p.m. in the Santiam Room.

Adjournment

Chair Stubbs adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Signature on file

Susan Muniz
Recorder

Beth Freelander
Planner II

*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing cdaa@albanyoregon.gov.