

Grants Committee Meeting

December 9, 2015

MINUTES

Members Present:

Joseph Kassly, Jr., Chairman
June Chartrand
Oliver Hamilton, Sr.
Ken Sharkey
John West

Members Excused:

Rick Vernier, Vice Chairman
Roy Mosley, Jr.

Staff Present:

Terry W. Beach, Executive Director
Jennifer Little, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Kassly called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the IGD Administrative Conference Room.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Kassly asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There was no public comment.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamilton and a second by Mr. Sharkey the minutes from the November 9, 2015 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. West and a second by Mr. Hamilton the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of November, 2015 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Chartand and a second by Mr. Hamilton the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of November, 2015 were approved unanimously to be placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Services Group report being placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Development Group report being placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Workforce Development Group report being placed on file.

Upon a motion by Mr. West and a second by Mrs. Chartrand, the Community Services, Community Development and Workforce Development Group reports were approved unanimously to be placed on file.

Resolutions

Old Business

New Business

A. Director's Report

- Terry Beach stated the Governor and legislative leaders have agreed to release additional dollars such as the motor fuel tax to help the County pave roads, fill potholes, purchase salt, and plow snow; 911 funds were also released. Affecting IGD, \$100,000 in additional Weatherization funds as well as \$1 million in additional LIHEAP state add-on PIPP funds are to be released. Those two programs make up the 19% cut IGD experienced this year in state funds. Ken Sharkey asked if IGD was fully restored this fiscal year. Mr. Beach responded not entirely but getting close. We are unsure of the state add-on PIPP funds; it was several million dollars last year. Mr. Beach stated IGD has not had to lay off any staff due to the release of the federal funds this past August.
- Mr. Beach informed members LIHEAP and Housing Resource Center staff will move out of the 27 N. Illinois Street location to the 2nd Floor of 19 Public Square after the first of the year weather permitting. He explained the LIHEAP building, which used to be the Illinois Power office, is old and experiencing issues. IGD pays approximately \$14,000 per month for the 2nd floor and partial 3rd floor space at 19 Public Square; rent paid by the Health Department and IGD helps to retire County bonds the County Board issued in years past to purchase the building and refinance the airport and other County holdings. LIHEAP and the Homeless Assistance Program do not pay rent out of their grants as PBC [Public Building Commission] does not charge IGD for the building. Mr. Beach further explained the homeless grant has a rent budget line item that is always sent back unspent; once those programs are relocated to 19 Public Square, the rent line item can be used in IGD's Cost Allocation Plan to share with the other grants. Mr. Beach stated IGD has plenty of room to combine staff and be located in one place.
- Mr. Beach informed members he has signed a revised Finance Manual in our Accounting Procedures. It can be found on the County website as well as the IGD Facebook page. He is starting to populate the IGD page on the County website as well as our social media presence with public documents, audits, etc. The IGD Annual Report was in the last County Board packet; the report maintained its pie chart format and was reduced from three to two pages. The Economic Development Annual Report was in the packet as well.
- Mr. Beach informed members CSBG Coordinator Cassandra Williams resigned last month and was replaced by Mary Pulliam who has been with IGD for more than thirty years; the CSBG Coordinator position was consolidated with the LIHEAP Coordinator position. The combination will save funding. Mrs. Williams provided one day's notice. Jackie Marion, Community Services Assistant, also resigned two weeks ago giving 5 hour notice. The Assistant vacancy has been posted in-house through Friday. If no one applies in-house, Mr. Beach will contact Chairman Kern regarding the open position.

Other Comments

Ken Sharkey asked if the homeless encampment on River Park Drive has been relocated. Mr. Beach explained Economic Development applied for and received a \$3.5 million federal grant from EDA which will go toward the \$8 million project to redo Front Street from Cargill all the way north to Fairmont City where Bunge is located; Trendley from the tracks to Cargill will be repaved; Front Street will be reconstructed from there up; a roundabout will be built in front of the Casino Queen. Mr. Beach stated the project is a pure public-private partnership. He explained there is currently a homeless encampment located under the MLK Bridge.

Staff from Holy Angels completes a census of the homeless population and distributes toiletries and food on Sundays; the camp fluctuates between twenty to thirty homeless adults and children with some having pets. Many of the individuals originate in Missouri and walk across the Eads Bridge when they cannot find a place to stay. The vast majority are young in their twenties to thirties;

some are believed to be Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Mr. Beach added mental illness can be prevalent with the homeless population; many do not want to accept an offer of housing as they prefer to be in the open. The numbers are down to ten to fifteen individuals; some have accepted offers; some have walked back to Missouri and have not returned; a couple are waiting to get into units this week.

June Chartrand asked how many were left. Mr. Beach responded there are approximately ten left out of thirty; IGD is working with them. He added it can be complicated as some shelters are not coed and do not have room for both men and women. Mrs. Chartrand stated she heard on the news homeless from Illinois were heading to Missouri where they had tents. Mr. Beach stated the City of St. Louis has removed homeless from that area.

John West stated he was concerned about the children among the homeless. Mr. Beach stated most of the children are gone. He added another issue is Belleville stopped allowing the Salvation Army to provide beds to the homeless. Mr. West asked if there was any chance we could get the Salvation Army back in Belleville. Mr. Beach stated he would have to contact the Mayor of Belleville.

Mr. Beach expressed homelessness is a problem everywhere. The goal is to gain the confidence of the homeless; two HRC staff members, Decima Brown and Bev Evansco, have visited the area and assisted a few of the homeless with apartments. Mrs. Chartrand asked if we have anything to offer them. Mr. Beach explained that we coordinate and subsidize apartments depending on funding.

Mr. West stated he wants to be sure the children are taken care of. Mr. Sharkey asked if they were of school age. Mr. Beach responded he believes the children have been taken care of.

Adjournment

Chairman Kassly entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. West and a second by Mr. Sharkey, Chairman Kassly adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.