

Grants Committee Meeting

June 10, 2015

MINUTES

Members Present:

Joseph Kassly, Jr., Chairman
Rick Vernier, Vice Chairman
Oliver Hamilton, Sr.
John West

Members Excused:

June Chartrand
Roy Mosely, Jr.
Kenneth Sharkey

Staff Present:

Terry W. Beach, Executive Director
Christina Anderson, CDBG Program Coordinator
Latosha Johnson, HRC Program Coordinator
Mary Pulliam, LIHEAP Program Coordinator
Cassandra Williams, CSBG Program Coordinator
Jennifer Little, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Kassly called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the IGD Administrative Conference Room.

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

Upon a motion by Vice Chairman Vernier and a second by Mr. Hamilton the minutes from the May 13, 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 May, 2015 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. West and a second by Vice Chairman Vernier the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of May, 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. Hamilton and a second by Mr. West, 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

- Rick Stubblefield is not present as he is currently on a Workforce Development trip with the National Guard in Florida where he will fly with Special Forces on a C-130 Hercules.
- The Workforce Development Group continues to transition from WIA to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act [WIOA] effective July 1st although all the rules are not yet finalized. The new law is much more business centered requiring more interaction with area employers; fortunately the County started down that path several years ago developing relationships with businesses. Mr. Beach remains the Executive Director of Economic Development as well as Executive Director of IGD and has been working with businesses such as Progressive Recovery, among others, with worker incumbent training/job training programs. The new law demands a stronger partnership with the One Stop system; soon to be known as America's Job Centers. Workforce Development will have a presence at One Stops and is planning on having a physical presence at Scott AFB with our Community Partnership P4 Program; staff will be there at least one Friday per month. As the various airmen and officers transition out and exit from the Air Force they are required to participate in a half-day program; Workforce Development is going to be a part of that. WIOA will also have a strong major impact on the youth program; it requires the bulk of allocations be spent on out-of-school youth and increases the age to 24 years old.
- Community Development [CDBG] is in the process of their 5 Year Consolidated Plan as well as their One Year Action Plan which is due to HUD [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development] by August 14th. A series of first-round public hearings were held; 11 throughout the County with 2 being in East St. Louis. Surveys were available via the County website as well as IGD's Facebook page and were also mailed to various organizations to help determine what eligible activities were needed within the County and how funds should be allocated. IGD is in the process of revising the first draft of the Consolidated Plan and intends to have the draft plan available for comment at various sites throughout the County starting June 18th following second-round public hearings.
- There is a public hearing next week that may prove to be interesting. A representative of Emerson Park Redevelopment Corporation held a rally for summer youth kids upset the State of Illinois cut their funding; she somehow tied the cut in funding to IGD's Community Development public hearing next week [June 16th]. She encouraged these youth looking for work, along with their parents and friends, to attend the IGD public hearing. There will be confusion as the purpose of the hearing is to discuss the Consolidated Plan and how money should be spent on infrastructure: streets, sewers, housing rehab, and demolition. Unfortunately, the Belleville News Democrat did not verify the information prior to publishing an article stating the hearing was to discuss what the County intends to do with Workforce Development funds; which is not the case. Mr. Beach has explained the confusion with [ESL] City Officials. Correct information has been submitted to the East St. Louis Monitor.
- Demolition is underway in East St. Louis; pictures are up on IGD's Facebook page.

- Community Services [CSBG] has submitted a modification to HUD to change allocations pertaining to CDL training in which CSBG is working with the Workforce Development Group. Emergency Food and Shelter program will begin soon utilizing a grant from United Way.
- LIHEAP wrapped up their program that ran September through May; serving 6,006 LIHEAP clients and an additional 1,300 PIPP clients. PIPP is the state add-on LIHEAP program; the program will be recertified if state funding comes through. The 1,300 PIPP clients are affected by the State budget cuts; the rest of our energy assistance program is federally funded. In early July last year, we served 882 clients with cooling aid. Next Monday at 11am, in front of the IGD building, Ameren will be here to announce their donation of 50 air conditioning units. All committee members are invited to attend.
- Fiscal had their outside auditor here as well as WIA monitoring; both are believed to have gone well.
- Housing Resource Center [HRC] is continuing to work on the Coordinated Assessment System.
- The Weatherization program received a glowing letter in response to a 3 day monitoring visit from DCEO. Mr. Beach was verbally informed IGD has the 2nd best Weatherization program in the State; would most likely be first if not for the multi-family St. Clair County Public Housing units in the program. The Weatherization program has consistently received letters like this for the past several years.

B. Chairman Kassly introduced a Committee Resolution in support of an application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce for improvements to the Riverbridge District in East St. Louis and authorizing the Executive Director of the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department to sign and submit the application to EDA. Mr. West offered a motion to approve and Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion.

Mr. Beach explained no County funds are involved. Mr. Beach, as part of a team, has brought together a number of partners including two competitors in the private sector who have injected funds to help this project become a reality. It will focus on the length of Front Street needing repair from Cargill to Bunge in order to grow agriculture business, develop parks and recreation linear trails, and to help the Casino Queen.

Two weeks ago Chairman Kern hosted an Economic Resilience Forum in which representatives from seventeen federal agencies involved in East St. Louis met at the Southern Illinois University East St. Louis Campus, including administrators from two regions from HUD, and the Regional Administrator of Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce (EDA). Mr. Beach explained EDA is encouraging the County to submit an application as a means of plugging the gap in funding for Front Street, Route 3, a River Park Drive round-a-bout, and other related improvements on Trendley, B Street, and an older part of Missouri Avenue to open up land for industrial purposes. In Chairman Kern's absence, EDA has authorized and requested Mr. Beach sign and submit the application; which is due via grants.gov Friday morning.

Mr. West asked when the project will be announced. Mr. Beach responded, if the County gets the award, there will be a press release. Mr. West asked how long that would be. Mr. Beach stated around 30 days. He further explained EDA is an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce that has been operating under CR, Continuing Resolution, from Congress for the last twenty years; Chicago Regional Office received a large allocation with funds typically

expended in Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Indianapolis; EDA is looking for projects in Southern Illinois.

Mr. West asked where on Front Street. Mr. Beach responded from Trendley all the way North to the Brooklyn Line which is very narrow and floods; it will be widened to an industrial strength road with curbs, gutters, and new lineal trail parks completing the gateway loop of trails on both sides of the river.

Chairman Kassly called for a vote to approve; the motion was approved unanimously.

Other Comments

Chairman Kassly introduced two guests in attendance: Mike Crockett, Jr., St. Clair County Board of Review member, and Lana Turley. Mr. Crockett stated he was attending on behalf of Mayor Curtis McCall of Cahokia and was seeking help for the Village regarding grants, economic help and development, and what needs to be done or can be done. Lana Turley introduced herself and discussed her professional experience. She is working to assist the Village of Cahokia in seeking resources and development. Mr. Beach discussed a number of ideas and resources he provided to Mr. Crockett and Mayor McCall including business retention programs for small business, re-engaging the Chamber of Commerce, meeting with Vanguard Trucking who is redeveloping the former Brockland site, as well as Louis Dreyfus, a firm from the Netherlands now located in Cahokia, and their multi-modal development/expansion on the riverfront. He added IGD can host future public meetings in Cahokia inviting various County Department Heads; LIHEAP, job training, and other IGD services and delivery activities can utilize locations in Cahokia for program outreach and invite surrounding communities.

Adjournment

Chairman Kassly entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Vice Chairman Vernier and a second by Mr. West, Chairman Kassly adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.