

Grants Committee Meeting

April 13, 2016

MINUTES

Members Present:

Joseph Kassly, Jr., Chairman
Rick Vernier, Vice Chairman
June Chartrand
Oliver Hamilton
Ken Sharkey
John West

Members Excused:

Roy Mosley, Jr.

Staff Present:

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

Chairman Kassly called the meeting to order at 5:33 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. West and a second by Mr. Sharkey the minutes from the March 9, 2016 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hamilton and a second by Mrs. Chartrand the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of March, 2016 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey and a second by Mr. Hamilton the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of March, 2016 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 Mrs. Chartrand and a second by Mr. Hamilton, 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 reviewed the Section 108 Loan Pool Application approved by the County Board last summer. He reminded members the program will give the County the ability to borrow up to five times (5x) our annual allocation of Community Development funds which is currently just over \$3 million; up to \$15 million could be borrowed. Mr. Beach explained HUD would create a line of credit for large economic development projects; funds would then be drawn down to make loans. The County would repay funds at 3-month LIBOR plus 25 basis points. Businesses would be charged anything above that and the County would keep the difference. Mr. Beach stated the loan program is a HUD initiative and has been around for 40 years in almost every major city and county; there have been zero defaults. He has been informed the County is expected to be approved next Monday [April 18th]. Mr. Beach stated most activity will be in the American Bottoms area as well as businesses located in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods. He reiterated the County will not make 100% loans; the program is not a grant; the Section 108 program will fill the gap in lending.
- Various staff members have participated in a number of required trainings in Springfield, Effingham, Chicago, and Austin, Texas.
- Weatherization was recently monitored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Mr. Beach stated the exit conference went well. IGD Weatherization remains the 2nd best program in the state out of approximately 40 agencies.
- WIOA state monitors were here for four days; the exit conference was via phone call. Mr. Beach stated the monitoring went well; there were a few management suggestions.
- The IGD page on the County website continues to be updated as well as social media pages on Facebook and Twitter.
- Mr. Beach invited members to the 2nd Annual Armed Forces Ball hosted by Chairman Kern on Friday April 29th. The Ball will take place at the Regency Center in O'Fallon. Tickets are \$100.
- Mr. Beach stated he is continuing to monitor NGA. He discussed various misstatements in the Final EIS. The Draft EIS had questioned if the County was in compliance with the Watershed Commission Plan as required by the Northeastern St. Clair County Watershed Plan Commission; however, that refers to St. Clair County, Michigan. Despite the County requesting the error be removed, it remained in the Final EIS report. The final report also added that all of St. Clair County, especially the area along the Osage River, could contain burial sites of the Osage Nation; the statement is another error as that location is in St. Clair County, Missouri.

Mr. Beach stated County leaders are preparing a lengthy review. Six form-letters have been drafted based on each category including cost, timeliness, security,

environmental and were distributed to all Chamber and Leadership Council members. The letters are available to committee members as well.

The County was successful in getting the deadline for the public comment period extended to May 2nd. Comments that were previously submitted in the Draft EIS will not be considered; acceptable comments have to address fault in the final report. The County has found substantial errors in the final report which will be addressed in a response. NGA released a statement today stating the St. Clair County, Michigan and St. Clair County, Missouri references are unfortunate errors but are minor in nature.

Mr. Sharkey asked if NGA stated they were typographical. Mr. Beach responded no; they meant St. Clair County, Missouri because they referenced the Osage River. The County has a number of concerns, and will address them through the analysis of the engineering firm that has been retained. Chairman Kern will submit a thorough response before the deadline.

Mr. West stated the mound builders had artifacts at the St. Louis site. Mr. Beach confirmed. He further explained the Osage Nation, along with a number of tribes, were consulted last year by the Corps. The Osage Nation wrote a letter last August stating the entire 99 acres of the St. Louis site was the location of multiple mounds that were destroyed in the early 1900's and they remain sacred sites; they urged the Corps to not select the St. Louis site because they claim the land. The Corps ignored their claim.

Mr. Beach and members discussed additional misstatements in the final report including NGA utilizing the opinion of a mere 48 Millennials; 12 of whom stated they would be willing to drive to St. Clair County. Mr. Beach expressed a pool size of 48 is not an adequate representation of opinion. Members discussed the various benefits of relocating to the St. Clair County area.

Mr. Beach reiterated all of the concerns the County has found will be thoroughly addressed in Chairman Kern's response.

Other Comments

Chairman Kassly asked Mr. Beach what interest the County is permitted to charge in regards to the Section 108 Loan Program. Mr. Beach responded anything; however, it has to be a rate businesses are willing to pay.

Adjournment

Chairman Kassly entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Vice Chairman Vernier and a second by Mrs. Chartrand, Chairman Kassly adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.