

Grants Committee Meeting

April 12, 2017

MINUTES

Members Present:

Rick Vernier, Vice Chairman
June Chartrand
Willie Dancy
Susan Gruberman
Roy Mosley, Jr.
John West

Members Excused:

Joseph Kassly, Jr., Chairman

Staff Present:

Christina Anderson, CDBG Program Coordinator
Jennifer Little, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Fred Boch, St. Clair County Board Member

In Chairman Kassly's absence, Vice Chairman Vernier called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. in the IGD Community Development Conference Room.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chairman Vernier asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were no public comments.

Upon a motion by Mr. West, and a second by Mr. Mosley the minutes from the March 8, 2017 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Mosley, and a second by Mrs. Gruberman, the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of March, 2017 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Chartrand, and a second by Mr. West, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of March, 2017 were approved unanimously and placed on file. IGD financial statements were present for review.

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

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

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

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

Resolutions

None

Old Business

None

New Business

- A. Jennifer Little introduced a letter of support to continue to recognize Illinois South Tourism as one of the Certified Tourism Bureaus within the State of Illinois. Mrs. Chartrand offered a motion to approve the letter of support and Mrs. Gruberman seconded the motion.

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

- B. Christina Anderson presented a recommendation for a new housing counseling contract. She explained IGD previously held a contract with Clearpoint Credit Counseling who was recently bought out by Money Management, Inc. The agency will no longer be offering housing counseling services in this area. As a result, IGD recently solicited for Request for Proposals; it is being recommended IGD utilize Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. to provide housing counseling services. The contract will have a maximum of \$28,000.00 for one year allowing a one year extension if they perform adequately. Urban League will provide services to participants of IGD's homebuyers program. Ten to fifteen participants will attend each class which will be offered twice per month. Urban League is currently providing their services gratis so IGD can continue to serve homebuyer clients without delay. It is a HUD requirement for clients to complete an eight hour counseling course to purchase a home. Mr. Boch expressed his surprise that Urban League was the only organization to submit an RFP. Mrs. Anderson responded there are a few other organizations that provide such counseling however they do not have an office in Illinois. She added IGD will not send clients to locations in St. Louis. Mr. West offered a motion to approve the contract with Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. and Mrs. Chartrand seconded the motion.

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

C. Director's Report

- In Terry Beach's absence and at his request, Christina Anderson distributed the 2016 IGD Annual Report with the programs noted that will be cut if the proposed federal budget passes. The Community Development Group as well as the Community Services group would be eliminated. The WIOA Group would remain. Mrs. Anderson informed members our funding would be reduced by 64.5% for a total of approximately \$8 million. She added negotiations are anticipated and the Community Development Block Grant has bipartisan support. Next week is "CDBG Week"; information will be posted on the website as well as social media. Mrs. Anderson stated there are a number of organizations fighting for programs and letters will be sent out by the County in the near future. Mrs. Chartrand offered a motion to approve the Director's Report and Mr. Dancy seconded the motion.

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

Other Comments

Christina Anderson distributed a letter addressed to the Committee from a client seeking rehabilitation assistance for a home she purchased through the County tax sale. The client stated upon purchasing the home she discovered it was uninhabitable and needed extensive rehab estimated at \$80,000-\$100,000. She contacted IGD and was informed the CDBG program requires the home be owner-occupied for a minimum of one year. The client believed the Grants Committee set the program requirements and was appealing for help. Mrs. Anderson met with the client and explained the program requirements were set by HUD. She provided her with other possible referrals. Mrs. Anderson informed Committee members she would be contacting HUD and following up with the client.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Vernier entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Mosley, and a second by Mr. Dancy, Vice Chairman Vernier adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.