

Grants Committee Meeting

**January 11, 2017**

**MINUTES**

Members Present:

Rick Vernier, Vice Chairman  
June Chartrand  
John West

Members Excused:

Joseph Kassly, Jr., Chairman  
Roy Mosley, Jr.

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Fred Boch, St. Clair County Board Member

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In Chairman Kassly's absence, Vice Chairman Vernier called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the IGD Administrative 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 Mrs. Chartrand, and a second by Mr. West the minutes from the December 14, 2016 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. West, 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 December, 2016 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 December, 2016 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 Mrs. Chartrand, 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. Director's Report

- Terry Beach informed members an article appeared in the Belleville News Democrat announcing the release of funds for Community Development projects. He has placed the notice on IGD's social media page as well as the IGD page on the County website. It is a very competitive program as not every project can be funded; some are not eligible and some are not located in a low-moderate income neighborhood. This year the program will be able to fund approximately 70% of the projects IGD received applications for. County Board member Fred Boch asked if projects in O'Fallon meet the criteria. Mr. Beach responded project applications are received from O'Fallon from time to time; however he did not have the information with him as to when they submitted their last application.
- Mr. Beach informed members LIHEAP continues to be very busy.
- Mr. Beach stated the annual national count for the homeless is on January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Mary Brown Center in East St. Louis. Volunteer training is underway. Dental care, medical treatment, showers, food, and referral services will be available. IGD participates in the homeless count with the Catholic Urban Programs annually. IGD has three staff members that assist the homeless daily. IGD also provides funding to other social services agencies that also assist the homeless on a daily basis. There is not a lot of press coverage due to the confidential nature of the event. The purpose is to complete a census of the homeless population.

June Chartrand stated she has noticed the individuals asking for money at the intersection of Route 15 and Route 159 are no longer there. Mr. Beach responded Belleville police have been good about addressing that.

Mr. West asked if medical attention will be available at the Mary Brown Center. Mr. Beach stated yes along with dental and other social services. Mr. West asked if there are job opportunities available at the event. Mr. Beach stated workforce staff will be there. He further explained many homeless use the County courthouse address to register to vote. Mrs. Chartrand asked if they register with no address. Mr. Beach responded yes; they can choose an address of any public building and vote in that precinct. Jennifer Little added homeless may also use IGD's address. Mrs. Chartrand asked how it is determined if they are legally permitted to vote. Mr. Beach stated many homeless have a history of going to state and federal agencies so there is a track record of birth certificates and other documents. He added homeless individuals have social security numbers so there are ways to track if they are legal citizens. Mr. West asked if homeless can receive mail at IGD. Ms. Little responded yes. She added there are programs available to assist homeless in getting free identification. She stated anyone needing assistance can contact Latosha Johnson the Housing Resource Center Coordinator. Mr. Beach stated upon receiving a voter registration card at IGD's address, he contacted Tom Holbrook for confirmation. Mr. Beach added he is unaware of the number of homeless that vote throughout the County.

Mr. Beach discussed the challenge in assisting the homeless population as some individuals do not want employment or a roof over their head. There can also be a presence of mental illness. Mrs. Chartrand asked if homeless individuals cross the river into Missouri. Mr. Beach stated it is mostly the other way around; when Larry Rice or the City of St. Louis turns them away, the homeless tend to cross the Eads Bridge into Illinois to Front Street under the MLK bridge. Mrs. Chartrand asked where they can go. Mr. Beach responded IGD has transitional housing available; however it is assistance that is often unwanted. We can provide services, but we cannot make them want it.

### **Other Comments**

None

### **Adjournment**

Vice Chairman Vernier entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mrs. Chartrand, and a second by Mr. West, Vice Chairman Vernier adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.