

Grants Committee Meeting

November 10, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present:

Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman
Richie Meile
Scott Greenwald
Ken Sharkey

Members Excused:

Stephen Reeb, Chairman
Willie Dancy
Roy Mosley, Jr.

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Jennifer Little, Executive Assistant/Special Projects Specialist

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Assistant Chair Susan Gruberman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the IGD Administrative Conference Room and took roll call.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Assistant Chair Gruberman asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were no comments.

Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald and a second by Mr. Sharkey the minutes from the October 13, 2021 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Greenwald the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of October, 2021 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Meile, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of October, 2021 were approved unanimously and placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Services Group and the reports were 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. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, 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. Rick Stubblefield presented the 2022 Grants Committee Meeting Schedule. Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Meile, the 2022 Grants Committee Meeting Schedule was approved unanimously and placed on file.

B. Director's Report

Rick Stubblefield informed members next week is "Apprenticeship Week" for Workforce Development. Similar to the manufacturing roundtable, a roundtable will be held for apprenticeships at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, Illinois. The event will bring employers, educators, and apprentices together as well as elected officials; 100 people are anticipated to attend. Mr. Stubblefield stated at the end of an apprenticeship, participants receive their Department of Labor certification that can be taken anywhere in the country. He expressed apprenticeships are no longer limited to the trades but now include medical and many areas of healthcare. St. Clair County is the first local workforce area in the state to get their Standards of Apprenticeship which means Workforce Development can create apprenticeships and fast track them through the Department of Labor. He explained programs do not have to go through the Department of Labor or written and certified through the Department; St. Clair County has access to a rapid system; an apprenticeship program can be fast-tracked in two weeks to a month's time rather than the standard two years. Mr. Stubblefield stated an apprenticeship agreement was recently signed with Soulcial Kitchen. The restaurant is going to serve as a commissary and training facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities, veterans, and hard-to-hire personnel that are eligible for Workforce Development funding. The program is the first of its kind in the United States and provides access to a two-year registered apprenticeship for cooks, restaurants, and mobile operations. Upon successful completion of the apprenticeship, the participant will have the opportunity to receive private funding to launch their own food truck and develop a unique hospitality business with an established route to market. In essence, if a participant completes the program, they will have access to the capital needed to own their own food truck. Richie Meile asked if financial assistance covers the cost of purchasing the food truck. Mr. Stubblefield responded yes. He expressed it was a goal of the owner of Soulcial Kitchen since the beginning. He reminded members Soulcial Kitchen also has discounted food tokens available that churches and non-profits can buy and give to individuals in need. Mr. Stubblefield stated he is looking to work with food pantries through the Community Services program to provide tokens so those in need have access to a hot meal. He noted Soulcial Kitchen has purchased the property in front of their building and is turning it into a bakery/ice cream shop which will be fully staffed by individuals with disabilities. Mr. Meile suggested placing food trucks at Metrolink stops. Ken Sharkey responded it was something that can be looked in to.

Mr. Stubblefield reminded members the Community Action Agency programs are undergoing restructuring. LIHEAP, Community Services, and the new water program LIHWAP, will become one group effective Monday. All three programs will now report to Tracey Hall. Lial Field will concentrate on Weatherization. Mr. Stubblefield expressed the three programs serve the same population and will work well together.

Ken Sharkey asked if IGD clients receive validated parking. Mr. Stubblefield responded IGD is not seeing clients in person so individuals should not be parking in the parking lot; he noted the gates give a grace period if clients park and try to enter the building. Jennifer Little added PBC is trying to prevent the parking lot from filling with lawyers and those going to the courthouse as the lot is designated for IGD, Health Department, and Veteran's Assistance clients. Vouchers are typically given to those who have business in the Annex Building; those who do not are required to pay for parking.

Mr. Stubblefield stated the second round of the IHDA Rental Payment Program was set to open on Monday November 8th; at 4pm on Saturday November 6th, IHDA changed the start date to

Monday December 6th. He noted there are other assistance programs still available in addition to IGD's CSBG program which continues to process applications. IGD's rental assistance is limited to a maximum of two months whereas the IHDA program offers up to fifteen months of assistance. Mr. Stubblefield stated as of November 5th, St. Clair County's partnership with IHDA has paid out \$12,129,509 in assistance to St. Clair County landlords. He noted that is up approximately \$2 million in one month.

Mr. Stubblefield stated a second round of the BRP, Barrier Reduction Program, is expected to start soon. He has signed the agreement. The program will provide rental assistance to those who receive SNAP benefits.

Mr. Stubblefield stated Community Development will be sending out contracts for public facilities in the near future. He noted the emergency repair program has exhausted its funding; the program should reopen in January.

Mr. Stubblefield informed members that IGD is responsible for the application for all HUD funds for homeless programs in St. Clair County; IGD is the collaborative applicant. The application is complete and has been sent to the board for approval. The application will be submitted next week. Mr. Stubblefield stated IGD has asked for additional funding. If additional funds are received, HRC is looking to expand the Homeless Management Information Services system and is also looking to hire a Housing Navigator that would work with landlords and tenants to create properties in which rent is subsidized. He noted it is not only a challenge to get individuals into properties but to also get landlords to do what they need to do. A Housing Navigator would work to navigate those challenges. Sue Gruberman asked if we have space to bring in additional staff. Mr. Stubblefield responded yes.

Other Comments

None

Adjournment

Assistant Chair Gruberman entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, motion passed and Assistant Chair Gruberman adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.