

Grants Committee Meeting

October 13, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present:

Stephen Reeb, Chairman
Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman
Willie Dancy
Scott Greenwald
Ken Sharkey

Members Excused:

Roy Mosley, Jr.
Richie Meile

Staff Present:

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

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Chairman Stephen Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. in the IGD Administrative Conference Room and took roll call.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Rick Stubblefield stated Richie Meile is still recovering from surgery and is anxious to return to meetings.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey and a second by Mr. Greenwald the minutes from the September 8, 2021 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Upon a motion by Ms. Gruberman, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in the month of September, 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. Director's Report

Rick Stubblefield noted this week is Manufacturing Week. He stated St. Clair County Workforce Development partnered with Madison County to hold a manufacturing roundtable yesterday. The Gateway Center donated space for the event that was attended by manufacturing partners as well as representatives from the state. SWIC brought their mobile training lab which showcases the capacity of welding and C&C operating. Mr. Stubblefield expressed the event highlights the work being done by the two workforce boards. He noted an apprenticeship roundtable will be held in November; the event will bring in apprentices, schools, and businesses.

Mr. Stubblefield stated Weatherization's new Energy Auditor, Michael Shoemaker, has completed his first week of training. Mr. Shoemaker is currently in Champaign for another week of training; he will complete ten weeks of training in the first six months. Mr. Stubblefield noted IGD invests approximately \$100,000 into new energy auditors before they are certified to do the work.

Mr. Stubblefield stated Community Services continues to process applications for mortgage, rent, water, sewer, and trash. He noted the program is beginning to return to pre-COVID eligibility requirements; while there are lingering effects from the pandemic, COVID is no longer the primary issue. He explained a number of applicants are stating there are no jobs and no work available despite the abundance of job vacancies and employers in crisis throughout the county. Mr. Stubblefield stated those clients can be referred to workforce development. Mr. Stubblefield reminded members St. Clair County partnered with IHDA for the Rental Payment Program. As of last Friday, St. Clair County landlords have received \$10,832,452.12 in rental assistance far exceeding the initial allocation of \$7.5 million. 700-800 applications remain in the cures process; more funds will be expended as those applications are processed. Mr. Stubblefield noted St. Clair County is benefitting from the funds recaptured from counties that chose not to partner with IHDA; their funds were recaptured after not meeting the deadline to expend 65% of their funding by September 25th. St. Clair County remains fourth in the state behind Cook, DuPage, and Will counties in funds expended.

Mr. Stubblefield informed members Community Development's Rehabilitation Program is underway and the first round of applications have been mailed out. He stated two projects are also underway with the Belleville Community Development Corporation; the organization buys vacant properties and rehabilitates them. Houses are chosen in Belleville, East St. Louis, or areas that have not-for-profits interested in the projects. Houses selected for rehabilitation are typically located on streets that would have the greatest impact on the neighborhood. Mr. Dancy asked if IGD is still having problems getting contractors. Mr. Stubblefield responded it remains difficult. Mr. Stubblefield explained for these projects, securing a contractor is the responsibility of the Belleville Community Development Corporation. He expressed BCDC is a great partner; they get the houses rehabilitated and sold with no issues which is not always the case with CHDO's. Mr. Stubblefield explained the program typically funds rehabilitation rather than new construction however the program would be open to it with the right property and partner. Mr. Stubblefield stated Community Development has been working with St. Clair County Zoning for the past year and a half to start demolition. He believes that should start

soon. Community Development has funding that should be able to assist over the next couple of years.

Mr. Stubblefield stated IGD is in the early stages of looking at using ARPA funds for non-congregate housing to assist the homeless. He noted the need for shelter along with other homeless services. Mr. Stubblefield expressed IGD is looking to assist with funding rather than being the agency that runs housing. He is working with HUD regarding committed long-term funding. Mr. Dancy suggested the Old St. Mary's Hospital. Mr. Stubblefield responded it would be dependent upon the condition it is in and the rehabilitation it would require. He explained the scope of work is very fine and limited as to what funds can be used for.

Mr. Stubblefield stated LIHEAP is open. He noted staff are moving a lot of applications. They processed double the applications last year than the year before. He noted the water program has not yet started. The state has said it is coming soon, hopefully in November. Mr. Stubblefield stated he has not yet received the grants.

Mr. Stubblefield stated IGD held an employee appreciation lunch last week. "A Fine Swine" food truck was brought in to serve employees lunch. Workforce Development has been working with them in regard to an apprenticeship and short-term credentialing. He explained Soucial Kitchen, who owns A Fine Swine, has poker-like meal chips that can be provided at a discount to not-for-profits to give to individuals in need. Through Community Services, Mr. Stubblefield would like to purchase the chips and give them to food banks; when a family comes to the food bank, they would get one chip per person. The family would then be able to get a hot meal from the food truck. He is exploring the idea with the state.

Mr. Stubblefield stated tomorrow staff will be wearing pink to acknowledge Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Other Comments

None

Adjournment

Chairman Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Dancy, motion passed and Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.