

To Grants Committee Meeting

April 10, 2024

MINUTES

Members Present:

Steve Reeb, Chairman
Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman
Ken Sharkey
Matt Smallheer
Scott Greenwald
Courtney Moore

Members Excused:

Richie Meile

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

May Brown
Landyn Smallheer

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Chairman Steve Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the St. Clair County Annex Conference Room, 2nd Floor.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Reeb took roll call.

Chairman Reeb asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were none.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smallheer and a second by Mr. Sharkey, the minutes from the March 13, 2024 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Ms. Gruberman, the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of March, 2024 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Moore, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in March 2024 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. Smallheer, the Community Services, Community Development, and Workforce Development Group reports were approved unanimously and placed on file.

Old Business

None

New Business

A. Director's Report

Mr. Stubblefield stated they are working with SWIC, Lewis and Clark Community College, Leadership Council, Boeing, Gulfstream and West Star on an apprenticeship grant for the aerospace industry. He stated they will submit an application later this fall after all parties are in agreement.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Community Service Block Grant is moving along. They have contracted with Wipfli for a strategic plan to bolster what CSBG is currently doing to meet the needs of the county. Community Services assist with rent, domestic violence and fire victims, dental, eyeglasses, food insecurities, and support for non-for-profit agencies. Wipfli will be conducting their survey at the beginning of May to make sure CSBG is running the best possible program.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the entire Weatherization staff is currently in Minnesota attending the National Home Performance Conference and Trade Show. He stated that Weatherization received the additional funding they requested and they are currently looking to add another employee.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that Community Development has been primarily focused on the Disaster Recovery Grant. He noted that specific grant has become very time consuming with all the outreach from different municipalities, entities, state and federal elected officials. He stated that each entity has requested how the funding be spent but it just will not be enough to fix all the problems in the county. He also stated that the Housing Resource Center is busy working with different organizations on new lower and supportive housing.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that LIHEAP funds will be reduced next year, returning to the pre-covid amount. He expressed that LIHEAP might not be able to help as many families as in the past with reduced funding. The state is discussing the benefit per household.

Mr. Stubblefield stated the grant from the Department of Human Services, which is currently being used for virtual reality headsets, will probably not be renewed. Workforce has been using the headsets for career exploration. He stated that they are currently working with Transfr VR to figure out a way to fund the headsets because it has been a beneficial program. The schools using them are really engaged with the program and are beginning to see results. He also stated that the WIOA summit is going to be held in the Gateway Center at the end of April.

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

Other Comments

None

Adjournment

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