



CITY OF ALBANY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, January 27, 2020, Noon
Willamette Room, 333 Broadalbin Street
Approved: February 17, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

12:05 p.m.

Joann Zimmer called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Karen Cardosa; Chris Equinoa; Joann Zimmer; Tara Dixson; Meagan Harsen; JoAnn Miller; Sharon Konopa; Melissa Murphy; David Abarr.

Commissioners Absent

Dick Olsen (unexcused).

Staff Present

Anne Catlin, planner III; Jennifer Sullivan, administrative assistant.

Guests

Liza Newcomb, DevNW; Keith Kolkow, Family Tree Relief Nursery; Michelle Robinson, Furniture Share; Kendra Phillips, Jackson Street Youth Shelter; Gail Meehan and George Matland, Signs of Victory; Regional Director for the Legal Aid office was in the audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

12:07 p.m.

Commissioner Equinoa moved to approve the December 16, 2019, minutes. Commissioner Harsen seconded the motion and it passed 8-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

12:09 p.m.

2020 Grant Proposals and Evaluation

12:09 p.m.

Housing Proposals:

DevNW - Liza Newcomb from DevNW distributed a brochure (see handout 1), talked about DevNW's grant request for the Albany housing repair program, and explained the positive impact the program has on low- and moderate-income residents and accomplishments to date. She explained that DevNW is requesting \$240,000 as there are currently 10 Albany applicants on the waitlist. Dialogue ensued about the average loan amount, how applicants are prioritized, how loans are repaid, and the goal to build a revolving fund for Albany homeowners.

Public Service Agency Presentations:

12:26 p.m.

Family Tree Relief Nursery - Keith Kolkow from Family Tree Relief Nursery explained that their primary goal is to reduce instances of child abuse and neglect. They mainly work with children who have experienced early childhood adverse experiences and families with a history of addiction, abuse, and neglect. Keith explained that many families self-refer to Family Tree. A classroom setting is offered for children twice a week, as well as respite care where children can be dropped off. Over 750 families have been served and there is currently a waiting list for the classroom. The grant would go toward continuing their current staff positions. Keith also talked about Family Tree Relief Nursery's success rate, recent growth, outreach services, peer mentorship, foster care prevention and reunification efforts, and where additional funding comes from.

Furniture Share - Michelle Robinson, director, provided a handout (see handout 2) and explained that they are asking for \$15,000 in grant funds. They expect to assist 1,800 families this year and are currently work with 200 referring

agencies. Michelle discussed the positive impacts Furniture Share makes on local children, their services promote belonging, help to restore hope for the future, and increases self-esteem, self-confidence, and family stability. The program helps with landfill diversion, diverting 600 tons of furniture annually from landfills. She also talked about the items they accept, that they must be in good, working condition, and that they do not accept clothes or toys.

Jackson Street Youth Shelter (JSYS) - Kendra Phillips, program director for JSYS explained that they serve homeless youth in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties by providing outreach, shelter, and transitional housing. She explained that the Albany House of JSYS is an emergency and transitional shelter serving 10 to 17-year-olds who are runaways, homeless, or unaccompanied youth, and families attempting to prevent homelessness. Kendra said the number one goal is to reunite youth with families or prepare them for independent living. She shared the agency's success rates, noted 60-70 youth are served at the Albany House annually. Services they offer include access to education, in-house mental health services, life skills training, permanent connections, and employment readiness. She also explained that there is an alumni group that meets monthly and offers mentorship and support. Commissioner Zimmer advised she is on the JSYS board and will not be scoring this applicant.

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) - Alicia Lucke with Senior Companion Services explained that they offer a senior companion program that partners low-income volunteer seniors with home-bound seniors. The focus is on seniors helping seniors. One hundred percent of the seniors being served are low-income. Alicia explained that funds would be used to reimburse their senior volunteers' gas costs. She also explained that 36 seniors in Albany are currently being served; their intention to grow their volunteer group. She touched on some of the benefits the program. The mayor advised that she is on the OCWOG board so she will not be scoring them.

Signs of Victory - George Matlin and Gail Meehan with Signs of Victory are requesting funds to continue the Signs of Victory shelter. They were recently asked by the hospital to build a respite care area that can hold 10 beds that would be staffed and funded by the hospital. They explained that the hospital contract and one with Linn County Mental Health add to their revenue. There are currently between 135 to 140 people staying at Signs of Victory. The grant funds would be used to help cover utilities, food, and additional beds. George and Gail spoke about the current services and supports offered by Signs of Victory and discussed new programs, assistance, and mentorships they are implementing. Commissioner Murphy recommended that Gail and George consider putting a succession plan in place and requested that they continue to collect data to help with their grant applications. George provided a handout (see handout 3).

Program Updates

1:42 p.m.

Anne told the Commission that she is unsure how much money the City will be allotted so for now estimates from last year will be used. She will send out scoring sheets and a revised budget from Creating Housing Coalition for the next meeting. She asked commissioners to send questions or requests for information from applicants to her prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Miller asked for lease terms for Signs of Victory.

NEXT MEETING DATE

1:45 p.m.

The next Community Development Commission meeting will be Monday, February 17, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

1:45 p.m.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Signature on file

Signature on file

Jennifer Sullivan
Administrative Assistant

Anne Catlin
Planner III