



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

January 24, 2022

12:00 p.m.

Virtual

Approved: March 21, 2022

Call to Order

In the absence of Chair Blanca Ruckert, and with no Vice-Chair, staff called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Roll Call and Introductions

Members present: Alex Johnson II, Melissa Murphy, Josiah Blaisdell, Roosevelt Gray, Kenny Larson, Robyn Davis, and Steph Nappa.

Members absent: Blanca Ruckert and JoAnn Miller

Commissioners introduced themselves.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

12:14 p.m.

Nomination: Commissioner Alex Johnson II nominated Commissioner Blanca Ruckert for the position of Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Ruckert was elected to the position of chair 7-0.

Nomination: Commissioner Alex Johnson II nominated Commissioner Robyn Davis for the position of Vice-Chair. Davis accepted the nomination. Hearing no other nominations, Davis was elected to the position of vice-chair 7-0.

Minutes

12:17 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny Larson moved to approve the December 13, 2021, minutes as presented. Commissioner Alex Johnson II seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

2022 Application Presentations

12:18 p.m.

Planner II Beth Frelander introduced the agenda item and the following individuals and organizations presented information about their CDBG applications:

- Gamal Nassar, Vice-Chair of Furniture Share, introduced his organization, and spoke about its needs for the upcoming fiscal year and how CDBG funding would fit with the organization.
- Kate Caldwell, Executive Director of CARDV, introduced her organization, described those who use their services, and shared CARDV's request for funding.
- Kirsten London and Ann Craig from Jackson Street Youth Services spoke about their organization and its expansion of services and beds.
- Tami Speten, Grant Writer for the Mid-Willamette Family YMCA, spoke about the operations of her organization and the request for funds.
- Emma Deane, Executive Director of Albany Helping Hands, spoke about her organization and its application for healthcare services advocate.
- Renee Smith, from Family Tree Relief Nursery, spoke about the support her organization offers, who the funds would help, and why CDBG funds are the best fit.
- Alicia Lucke, from Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, spoke about OCWCOG's services and how the CDBG funds would be used.
- Kim O'Hare from DevNW spoke about their home repair program and Planner III Anne Catlin noted that allocated funds would be going into a revolving loan fund.
- Parks & Recreation Director Kim Lyddane spoke about the Parks Department's request for an outdoor fitness court at Burkhart Park.

Presenters gave the following answers to questions from commissioners:

- Nassar spoke about how Furniture Share provided furniture for refugees from the most recent fires and about his agency's work with over 200 other agencies to provide furniture. *(Murphy)*
- Caldwell said CARDV has seen a decline in those seeking its services since the beginning of the pandemic. Caldwell said this is likely because it is harder for people to leave their abusers. *(Johnson II)*
- Caldwell said CARDV has expanded its outreach, including to schools. Caldwell continued, saying CARDV does get referrals from neighbors, medical professionals, and legal professionals. *(Gray)*
- Craig spoke about how youth are referred to Jackson Street and noted different ways that youth experience homelessness. *(Johnson II)*
- Craig spoke about Jackson Street's Education Assist program and noted there are specific courses for learning how to use the computer. *(Blaisdell)*
- Speten said that YMCA has not yet opened infant childcare but is currently working on getting all of the approvals needed. *(Murphy)*
- Speten said that most YMCAs have not opened childcare sites like Albany's. Speten also spoke about how the YMCA handles referrals. *(Nappa)*
- Deane spoke about her plan to make the potential funding from CDBG sustainable for future years. *(Murphy)*
- Lucke spoke about how OCWCOG uses referrals and their outreach. *(Lucke)*
- O'Hare said there is generally a waitlist for the home repair program. O'Hare continued, saying that the list is mostly first-come-first-serve, however sometimes houses move up on the list if there is an immediate health and safety risk. *(Nappa)*

Johnson II wanted to declare that he has donated money from his business to the YMCA.

Business from the Public

1:28 p.m.

None.

Business from the Commission

1:28 p.m.

None.

Next Meeting Date

Catlin laid out the upcoming meeting schedule and CDBG process. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, February 7, 2022.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Vice-Chair Robyn Davis adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

signature on file

signature on file

Gabriel Shepherd
Recorder

Beth Freeland
Planner II

**Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing cdaa@cityofalbany.net.*