



APPROVED MINUTES

SUNNYVALE HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2010

The Housing & Human Services Commission met in a special session in the Council Chambers at 456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale City Hall, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 on November 17, 2010 at 7:08 p.m. with Chair Anderson presiding.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present: Eric Anderson, Hannalore Dietrich, Fred Fowler, Anna Ko, Younil Jeong, and Mathieu Pham.

Commission Members Absent: Dori Hailu.

Staff Present: Suzanne Isé, Housing Officer and Edith Alanis, Housing Programs Technician.

Others Present: Representatives from various human services agencies.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Twana Karney, Program Director of Acterra, spoke about Green @ Home, a volunteer-based program that has already made 110 "House Calls" in Sunnyvale to provide home energy audits and install energy saving devices. These services are available to renters as well as home owners. Ms. Karney wishes to increase awareness about the program and encourages residents to call 650-962-9876 ext.350 for the services or to volunteer to be trained to conduct the audits.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A Draft Minutes of September 22, 2010.

Chair Anderson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2010.

Commissioner Dietrich moved and Commissioner Ko seconded to approve the minutes of September 22, 2010.

Motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Rank Study Issues

Officer Isé explained the Study Issues process and briefly reviewed the study issue papers in the agenda packets. She explained the ranking method, reminded them that Study Issue

FIN 11-01 had been presented at the prior meeting, and informed them that Study Issue CDD 09-07 is already in process and they could recommend dropping it. The study issue papers referred to the Commission for ranking were:

1. CDD 09-07: Consider Revisions to Zoning Code for Conversions of Mobile Home Parks to other Uses.
2. CDD 09-11: Review of the Housing Mitigation.
3. CDD 10-06: Toolkit for Commercial/Residential Mixed Use Development.
4. FIN 11-01: Utility Bill Assistance for low Income, Fixed Income, Senior, and Disabled Utility Customers.

Officer Isé answered questions regarding Study Issue CDD- 09-11. Commissioner Fowler added some background about the Housing Mitigation Fee study issue and noted that the study could prove the current fees to be too high or too low.

Chair Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

There were no public comments regarding any of the study issues.

Chair Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:29 p.m.

After some discussion Commissioner Fowler made the following motions:

Commissioner Fowler moved and Commissioner Dietrich seconded to drop study issue CDD 09-07 from being ranked since it is already underway.

Motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

Commissioner Fowler moved and Commissioner Pham seconded to defer study issue CDD 09-11.

Motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

After tallying everyone's ranking of each study issue and some brief discussion to break a potential tie, Chair Anderson asked for a motion.

Commissioner Fowler moved and Commissioner Pham seconded to advise the City Council that the Housing and Human Services Commission ranked study issue FIN 11-01 no. 1 and study issue CDD 10-06 no. 2.

Motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

3. Public Hearing on Priority and Unmet Needs for Human Services and Capital Projects

Chair Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:43 p.m.

Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto, Executive Director for West Valley Community Services and a Sunnyvale resident, asked that the Commissioners consider homelessness and the homeless in Sunnyvale when discussing the priorities for funding.

Wanda Hale, Program Director of Catholic Charities' Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, spoke about their program, which advocates for elderly residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and investigates abuse and advocate for their clients' needs to be addressed. She gave a brief description of the impact of the economic downturn on the elderly, such as an increase of abuse by family and/or facility staff.

Georgia Bacil, Directing Attorney of Senior Adults Legal Assistance (SALA), stressed the need and importance of all senior supportive services as a priority. SALA provides free legal services to seniors county-wide, including Sunnyvale, targeting seniors who are very low-income or at risk of abuse or premature institutionalization. SALA collaborates with Sunnyvale Community Services to provide services in Sunnyvale.

Joan Smithson spoke on behalf of the Senior Nutrition Program which serves approximately 140 daily lunches to low-income seniors in a congregate setting at the First United Methodist Church in Sunnyvale. In many instances, the meal that the seniors receive at this site is their only hot and nutritious meal of the day, not to mention an opportunity for them to socialize. Some seniors also volunteer to help run the program.

Linda Chin, Director of Development of Abilities United, shared inspiring stories about some of their clients. Abilities United provides services to individuals with physical, mental, and learning disabilities to prevent homelessness, reduce medical costs, and the need for special education by providing early intervention to disabled children, and various therapeutic activities for clients of all ages.

Marie Bernard, Executive Director of Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS), explained that SCS provides emergency financial and food aid to needy families and seniors. The demand for food is not increasing as rapidly as in previous years, but has reached a very high plateau. SCS delivers food monthly to 100 homebound seniors and provides other services with the help of 800 volunteers. In addition, last year they disbursed \$910,000 in emergency rent assistance. One of the trends that stand out is the increase in domestic violence due to the increased stress of the recession. She also mentioned that transportation is also as a high priority need for low-income residents.

Katherine "Kitty" Mason, Director of Behavioral Services and Housing at Catholic Charities, spoke on behalf of the Housing Search and Stabilization program which helps people find shared affordable housing. The demand for affordable housing is increasing.

Break

Meeting resumed at 8:46 p.m.

4. Review 2008 CDBG/HOME Request for Proposals (RFP)

Officer Isé gave a brief presentation about the RFP process and noted that the agenda packets included a copy of the 2008 RFP, the last one published, as a reference and to show how eligibility and priorities were handled in the past.

Officer Isé explained that in the RFP the Commissioners can highlight any new priority needs based on what they have learned from their own inquiries or through the public testimony they just heard. They can also choose to change the minimum grant amount or modify the scoring criteria.

She also presented different options for structuring the RFP in order to assist the applicants in preparing their proposals.

After a lengthy discussion the Commissioners decided to take more time to review all the materials and the information that was presented to them today.

Commissioner Fowler moved and Commissioner Pham seconded to have a meeting in early January to finalize the RFP that will go out and the scoring system.

Motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

- BOARDMEMBERS OR COMMISSIONERS ORAL COMMENTS
Commissioners took turns reporting on their experiences during their recent human services agency visits.
- STAFF ORAL COMMENTS
None

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ko moved and Commissioner Pham seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Isé
Housing Officer