

MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (NICC)

Community Meeting Center, Council Chamber
11300 Stanford Avenue

Monday, April 17, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONER BELL
COMMISSIONER BLACKMUN
COMMISSIONER DE LA O
COMMISSIONER KEARNEY
COMMISSIONER KESTER
COMMISSIONER RUBIN
COMMISSIONER TRAN

Absent: Tran

ALSO PRESENT: Monica Covarrubias, Sr. Project Manager; Omar Sandoval, City Attorney; Timothy Throne, Sr. Program Specialist; Lisa Kim, City Manager; Dana Yang, Program Specialist; Judy Moore, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Staff.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.

SELECTION OF CHAIR: Commissioner Blackmun nominated Commissioner de la O as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Rubin. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Bell, Blackmun, de la O, Kearney, Kester, Rubin
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (1) Tran

Commissioner de la O assumed the duties of Chair.

SELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:

Commissioner Rubin nominated Commissioner Bell as Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Blackmun. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Bell, Blackmun, de la O, Kearney, Kester, Rubin
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (1) Tran

MINUTES: Commissioner Blackmun moved to receive and file the Minutes from the September 26, 2022 Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Kearney. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Bell, Blackmun, de la O, Kearney, Kester, Rubin
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (1) Tran

REVIEW OF THE CODE OF ETHICS/BROWN ACT: After a brief summary by staff, the Commission acknowledged the Code of Ethics and the Brown Act governing the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission.

MATTERS FROM STAFF:

NICC OVERVIEW: Staff presented a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) overview which focused on the allocation of available Federal funds for various programs including: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Act (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), CARES Act Funding, Citizen Participation Plan, 5-Year Consolidated Plan (ConPlan), Annual Action Plan (AAP), and the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

In response to Commissioner's questions, staff stated that the Be-Well Mobile Response Team has not acquired an additional van, however, the 2023-24 funding includes the new 'street medicine' program; that Be-Well addresses homelessness mental health and street medicine addresses physical health; that the number of sheltered and un-sheltered homeless in Garden Grove was 393 and the next Point in Time count would be conducted during winter of 2024; that the City currently has no State funding that would help retain jobs in Garden Grove, but the City could apply if the opportunity arose; that the City seeks out grants for programs; that jobs in the Jobs First program include low-income Garden Grove jobs in the service industry, such as food and retail; that low-income is 80% of the 'area median income' (AMI), however, the amount varies by county and the income limits are published each April; that staff tries to fully allocate Federal funds in the new year, however, a small portion is unallocated should new programs become available during the year; that funds are sometimes collected into a greater amount to build an affordable housing project; that public outreach for programs is published in three newspapers of different languages – English, Spanish, and Vietnamese; and that the Action Plan (AAP) accomplishments will be laid out in the 2023 CAPER (Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report).

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2023-24 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE USE OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FUNDS: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires a public hearing be conducted prior to the approval of the FY 2023-24 Annual Action Plan to receive and utilize HUD grants. The City must submit an Annual Action Plan to HUD forty-five (45) days prior to the start of the fiscal year, or by May 15, 2023. Each year's Action Plan must address the Priority Objectives adopted by the City Council on June 23, 2020 for the 5-Year Consolidated Plan for the use of HUD Funds. The Draft FY 2023-24 Action Plan is

available on the City's webpage for public review until April 25, 2023 (ggcity.org/neighborhood-improvement/reports).

Approximately \$3.7 million in HUD funds will be available during FY 2023-24. This budget includes approximately \$1.2 million of carryover, or previously unallocated HUD funds from prior years' entitlement allocations, and a new entitlement allocation of \$2.5 million in HUD funds.

Program plans and funding recommendations for FY 2023-24 are based upon the Priority Objectives and input received during the public comment period on community and housing development needs conducted during the preparation of the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan. During FY 2023-24, HUD funds will address a wide range of Garden Grove housing and community development needs as follows: Public Services, Public Facilities and Infrastructure, Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation, Economic Development, Affordable Housing, Emergency Solutions Grant, and Administration.

Staff noted that all HUD citizen participation requirements had been met for HUD's 30-day minimum public comment period.

The proposed FY 2023-24 Action Plan will allow the City to access \$2.5 million in new entitlement grants from HUD and an estimated \$1.2 million in unexpended previous year's funds. The allocation of HUD funds effectively leverages competitive grants and the City's General Funds. Funds will be included as part of the upcoming biennial budget for FY 2023-24.

In response to Commissioner's questions, staff stated that in regard to 'after-school' programs and child care, the City is implementing a pilot program called BOOST, via WeeCare; that WeeCare funds child-care agencies, including 'after-school' programs; that recipients must qualify as low-income, with the program directed toward those who need assistance; marketing for the program is via flyers and press releases, along with notification to the school district; and, the private agency selection is through the RFP process.

In regard to homelessness, the Be Well program works with the Police Department's Special Resource Team, a team of four full-time officers, who go out and respond to calls that had been forwarded to the Moving Forward Psychological Institute program, thus creating a collaboration.

Lastly, that the City uses grant retention funds to assist struggling businesses allotting \$3,000 per job retained.

Chair de la O opened the Public Hearing to receive comments. Seeing no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Kearney and seconded by Chair de la O, to accept staff's recommendation to transmit the draft Fiscal Year 2023-24 Action Plan, along with any public comments, to City Council for adoption. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Bell, Blackmun, de la O, Kearney, Kester, Rubin
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (1) Tran

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Blackmun complimented staff on the Tamerlane project; Vice Chair Bell asked staff to consider additional methods for grant program outreach for the greater community; and staff introduced Lisa Kim, City Manager.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m. The next Meeting of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission will be held Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA.

Judy Moore
Recording Secretary