



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Thursday, December 9, 2021  
Meeting held electronically**

**PRESENT:** Chair Raoul Zubia, Commission Members Jayne Hubbard, Jeff Jameson, Roger Lurie, Tricia Serlin, and Neal Shearer

**ABSENT:** Vice Chair Emily Reilly

**STAFF:** Greg Bestgen, Director; Irma Hollamby, Community Assistance Manager; Mary Witkofski, Community Development Supervisor; Chad Beougher, Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator; Anthony Harrington, Operations Supervisor; Jennifer Murphy, Human Services Center Supervisor; Police Commander Blooming

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Zubia called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present as listed above.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public submitted comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2021

Commissioner Shearer noted that under the Year End Summary, in the first paragraph where it references the amount and value of the food, it should say \$964, not \$964,000.

COMMISSIONER SHEARER MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 18, 2021 HUMAN SERVICES MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER SERLIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ZUBIA, COMMISSIONERS HUBBARD, LURIE, SHEARER, AND SERLIN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER JAMESON ABSTAINED. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### **1. FY 2022/23 CDBG Set-Aside Requests**

Mary Witkofski, Community Development Supervisor, and Chad Beougher, Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator, reviewed FY 2022/23 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) purpose, goals and set-aside funding allocations.

Ms. Witkofski said that FY 2022/23 CDBG funding, based on the average of the prior three years, is estimated to be \$1.1 million. Approximately 20 percent will be set aside for administrative fees and CDBG has a public service cap of 15 percent, which means \$167,734 will be set aside for public service programs. Mr. Beougher described the Green Housing Rehabilitation Program, the Roof Repair Program, and the Housing Rehabilitation Program, including eligibility requirements and funding restrictions.

Mr. Beougher requested set-aside funding for District 1 Crime Prevention to install surveillance cameras at Eldorado Park and the Wedge Skate Park. The cameras will enable the areas to be monitored by the real-time crime and security operations center. Estimated cost for the proposal is \$48,764.48.

Mr. Beougher requested set-aside funding for pavement reconstruction and ADA upgrades on four city blocks located between Thomas Road and McDowell. He noted that the area is primarily occupied by at or below median income residents. Estimated cost for the proposal is \$450,000.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Beougher explained that typically CDBG non-public services funds are expended on the three public service programs. This year surplus COVID funds are available for use.

Police Commander Blooming said that the primary issue at the Eldorado Park and the Wedge Skate Park is graffiti and vehicle theft, but some violent crimes also occur.

Mr. Beougher explained that initially a larger area was identified for street reconstruction, but based on funding the quadrant closest to the school was chosen.

COMMISSIONER JAMESON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 2022/23 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) SET-ASIDE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS. COMMISSIONER HUBBARD SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ZUBIA, COMMISSIONERS HUBBARD, JAMESON, SHEARER, AND SERLIN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

### **2. Senior Services Program Updates**

Anthony Harrington, Community Services Operations Supervisor, provided an update on Senior Services' special events and recreation. He said that recreation classes at the senior centers have been slowly coming back since Labor Day. There are currently 29 classes per week with approximately 377 participants. At this time, special events are being limited to a maximum number of attendees. He noted that the Thanksgiving Luncheon had 87 attendees at Granite Reef and 80 at Via Linda. Upcoming holiday events include Jingle and Mingle holiday

luncheon, scheduled for Friday, December 17, 2021; All Things Senior Expo and Trade Show on January 13, 2022 at Scottsdale Stadium; Granite Reef's Valentine's Day event on February 14, 2022; and Spring Barbeques at both Granite Reef and Via Linda the first week of March 2022.

Jennifer Murphy, Humans Services Center Supervisor, provided updates on Senior Services special programs and social services. Her presentation included a review of the history of the Adopt-a-Senior Program which is up to 336 participants and 211 sponsors. The Brown Bag program was restructured during the pandemic; distributions are now being done twice a month, on the first and third Thursdays, instead of every week. The program has been improved, now offering more fruits and vegetables. Currently 177 low-income seniors are participating in the program. Cost of food distribution to date since August 2021 is \$49,534.60.

Ms. Murphy talked about the social services available through the senior centers in addition to the recreation and leisure programs. The City's holistic approach considers seniors' physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being. Recreation and social services teams work hand-in-hand to make sure needs of seniors in the community are being met. She noted that special attention has been given to mental health challenges resulting from the pandemic.

Ms. Murphy said that one of the current challenges being faced is the lack of affordable housing for seniors. She noted that older adults are the fastest growing homeless population, being dubbed nationally as the "Silver Tsunami." The City of Scottsdale has recently joined with a coalition of faith communities and others to work to find innovative solutions and strategy to affordable, attainable housing. In addition, the Community Assistance office has been working with landlords to promote the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Harrington said that the Brown Bags are available for pick up twice a month. On occasion if there is a significant need, Brown Bags will be delivered to a participant.

Mr. Harrington said that vendors who are interested in participating in the Senior Expo can submit an application to senior services online through [sdaz.gov](http://sdaz.gov).

Commissioners commended staff for their hard work and dedication.

### **3. Director's Report**

Greg Bestgen, Director, said that he will be sending Commissioners a report highlighting stories of in-depth work done in collaboration with Human Services staff and outside partners.

He reported that the Day Relief Center at Mountain View Community Church hosted a Thanksgiving gathering on November 22, 2021, for approximately 50 persons experiencing homelessness. Church members and volunteers helped cook and serve the meals.

Holiday Programs at Vista del Camino and the senior centers are underway. Donation drop offs and recipient pickups are ongoing. Commissioners will be receiving an invitation to attend the December 17, 2021 the Granite Reef holiday luncheon.

Director Bestgen noted that both senior centers will be fully opening in January.

The Commission tour is scheduled for December 29, 2021 starting at 8:30 a.m.

Director Bestgen mentioned that Maricopa County has approximately 11,000 people experiencing homelessness. He stressed the importance of Scottsdale citizens embracing those who are in Scottsdale as their homeless, noting that many have reported that they went to Scottsdale high schools. He expressed concern about keeping programs funded once COVID relief funds have been expended. He noted that Vista del Camino is expending an additional approximately \$4 million in emergency rent and utility assistance funds from Maricopa County.

He thanked staff for the great work they are doing through the holidays.

#### **4. Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER SERLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER SHEARER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ZUBIA, COMMISSIONERS HUBBARD, JAMESON, SHEARER, AND SERLIN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.