



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 14, 2023
City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Neal Shearer, Vice Chair Tricia Serlin (Commissioner), Commission Members Jeff Jameson, Roger Lurie, Patrick Dodds, Mary Jung (Vice Chair), and Stuart Turgel

STAFF: Greg Bestgen, Director; Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager; Rachel Smetana, Human Services Manager; Mike Lopach, Human Services Manager; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager; Judy Doyle, Community Services Assistant Executive Director

Call to Order

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2023

COMMISSIONER JUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 11, 2023 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, LURIE, DODDS, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Election of Officers

COMMISSIONER LURIE NOMINATED NEAL SHEARER FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER DODDS SECONDED THE NOMINATION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, LURIE, DODDS, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

COMMISSIONER JAMESON NOMINATED TRICIA SERLIN FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION. VICE-CHAIR SERLIN NOMINATED MARY JUNG FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER JAMESON MOVED TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS. NO SECOND WAS MADE FOR EITHER NOMINATION OR FOR THE MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS LURIE, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN FAVOR OF MARY JUNG. COMMISSIONERS DODDS AND JAMESON VOTED IN FAVOR OF TRICIA SERLIN. MARY JUNG WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO TWO (2).

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS BEGAN THEIR TERM IMMEDIATELY.

3. Paiute Neighborhood Center Update

Rachel Smetana, Human Services Manager, gave an update on current programs, activities, and events at the Paiute Neighborhood Center. Her presentation included an overview of agencies on the Paiute Campus, including Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center (SARRC), Community School; Head Start and Early Head Start; Hirsch Academy; and Scottsdale Family Resource Center. The WIC office that has been located at the center is in the process of moving their offices to another location. The emergency crisis case management team is supported by St. Vincent de Paul and Partners for Paiute. It consists of two caseworkers who see an average of 60 cases per month. Partners for Paiute is helping to organize the 2023 Fall Family Festival and Health Fair.

Currently a program for sustainability is being conducted in the nearby Holiday Park neighborhood, which a recent ASU study deemed the hottest neighborhood in all of Scottsdale. As part of the sustainability program, efforts are being made to engage with the community to be prepared in case of the event of an extreme heat event.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Smetana explained that WIC is moving much of their programming and opportunities to online resources and have some brick-and-mortar opportunities in other parts of the Valley where the need is greater than in Scottsdale. The SARRC program is considered a medical program and many insurance companies will cover a portion of the programming.

4. Paiute Neighborhood Center Capital Improvement Projects

Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director, provided information regarding the future infrastructure improvements to the Paiute Campus. One project will replace aging structures, replacing existing office space with a 22,700 square-foot building, and community services offices will be consolidated in this location. The project was initially funded for \$11.1 million as part of the 2019 bond election, but an additional \$5.3 million has been identified to cover the cost of inflation, bringing the total cost to \$16.4 million. The second project is a plan to add approximately 28 affordable housing units to the Paiute campus, six of which will be dedicated to the Bridge Housing Program.

The Residence at Paiute will be an affordable housing project i funded separately through grant funding and a portion from the General Plan Initiatives Fund, and would add a second story to the new building. The development will be assist primarily seniors and families currently on the Housing Choice Voucher Program, requiring only 30 percent of a person's income each month. Three separate actions will go to City Council and it is anticipated that public outreach will begin in spring of 2024 with project completion at the end of 2026.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Witkofski explained in detail the anticipated process for cost of maintenance and case management. Commissioners expressed congratulations and support for the projects.

5. Director's Report

Director Bestgen reviewed the org charts for the department reorganization, highlighted changes within the department, talked about vacancies, and introduced Community Services Assistant Executive Director Judy Doyle.

Director Bestgen gave an overview of the Bridge Housing Program that has been funded through the CARES program over the last year. On June 27, 2023, City Council approved accepting funds from the Arizona Department of Housing in the amount of \$940,000 for continuance of the program. Funding includes \$499,000 for hotel rental of 10 rooms and an additional \$400,000 for supportive services and nutrition services for people housed in the hotel. Director Bestgen talked about the parameters of the program, which primarily assists seniors, families, and minor children who have been displaced from their homes in Scottsdale with housing and case management with the goal of returning them to the most independent living situation possible within 120 days. He reviewed the requirements for the program and the rules and responsibilities for residents. He stressed that persons who have been homeless for more than a year or repeatedly, with disabling conditions such as mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability are not eligible for Scottsdale's Bridge Housing Program. He reviewed the intake and approval procedures and grounds for termination from the program. Additional discussion about the Bridge Housing Program will be agendized for the next meeting.

6. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Communication strategies
- Bridge Housing Program

7. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER SERLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER DODDS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, LURIE, DODDS, SERLIN, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.