

DRAFT MINUTES

HCDC Advisory and Recommendation Committee – Public Services

Friday, May 31, 2019
1:00 p.m.
Central Permit Facility
2nd floor Conference Room

1.0 Roll Call

The meeting of the Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) Public Services Advisory and Recommendation Committee (ARC) was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

 X Adam Didech

 E Linda Pedersen

 E Mary Dominiak

 E Joel Sikes

Guests: Jonathan Birch and Dustin Calliari of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Staff: Jodi Gingiss, Brenda O’Connell, Dominic Strezo, Eric Foote, Irene Marsh-Elmer and Laura Walley

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of January 25, 2019 minutes

The minutes were held due to the lack of a quorum.

3.0 Public Comment (items not on the agenda)

There were no public comments.

4.0 Old Business

There was no old business.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Discussion: Preparation for 2020 – 2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan for the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

Jodi Gingiss, Community Development Administrator, said that today’s meeting would be an open discussion with the benefit of consultants Jonathan Birch and Dustin Calliari from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), to think about the upcoming Five-year Consolidated Plan and to discuss how to best utilize Lake County’s anticipated federal funds. The Public Services ARC’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds amount to approximately \$330,000 annually, due to a federally imposed maximum of 15% on Lake County’s total CDBG funds. This ARC is also responsible for the grant recommendations for the County’s Video Gaming Revenue (VGR) funds, which are used for behavioral health services, thereby potentially allowing the CDBG funds to be used for new services. Jodi provided a list of the potential uses of

CDBG funds and a brief history of the public services agencies' expectations for the grants. As the VGR funds help to cover the majority of the public services funding needs, it is believed that the flexible CDBG funds could be better used to subsidize innovative programs, such as transit, in concert with the new lead agency that will work to implement the paratransit market study findings. Jodi asked Jonathan to offer insights into CMAP's On To 2050 plan and how it meshes with the possibility of the County using these funds on transit. He said that the three broad principles of On To 2050 are prioritized investment, resilience and inclusive growth. Transportation would lie within the principle of prioritized investment, as transit is important on local and state levels, so limited resources must be wisely invested using "best practices". The resilience principle speaks to the need to prepare for and address rapid change, some of which might be foreseeable, such as demographic changes. Inclusive growth identifies the fact that not all have been included in, nor benefitted from, regional economic growth. The inclusive growth principle requires that a variety of changes be made to better link people with that growth, be it housing, amenities, transit and/or new jobs. On To 2050 includes many transit recommendations, to address demographic and preference changes and the job centers/housing mismatch. There followed a discussion on the strategic manner that would be required to enable the ARC's limited funding to make an impact on the transit issue, as the paratransit market study provided seventeen strategies for system improvement. Jodi offered that these funds could be used to help meet Lake County's job creation goal by providing transportation for low- and moderate-income workers to job centers, especially during the evening hours when no buses are available. Hopefully, this might serve as a good pilot program to encourage local companies to provide that service in the future. Jonathan offered that CMAP might be able to provide assistance to bring partners together to communicate about transit issues, as pilot programs to link economically disinvested areas with suburban job centers is one of CMAP's interests.

Upon request, Jodi offered a history on the use of the public services funds and presented additional options for the money. Commissioner Didech raised the possibility of working with the public service agencies to increase their fund-raising capabilities, so that they wouldn't remain dependent on the limited federal funds. This concept, including the ongoing work to address it, and the need to work toward a smooth transition from continually funding the same public service programs were then discussed. It was posited that this shift might be cushioned by using some of the funds to fill the holes that are being identified by the Homeless Needs Gap Analysis and/or to help the agencies improve disability-access at their buildings.

Jodi asked Jonathan what other funding possibilities would align with CMAP's goal of inclusive growth? He spoke about land banks as a beneficial tool, along with targeted reinvestment areas and workforce development. Jodi talked about a recent conversation with Lake County's Workforce Development (WD) staff, who informed her of the need to provide transportation and facilities to homeless individuals, to allow them to make good impressions at job interviews. This would help WD staff place more homeless people in jobs. If Lake County could help fill those needs, then WD staff would make a request to their board to reserve spots in their programs for homeless people.

The discussion then turned to the question of determining where the Public Services CDBG funds would be used, especially what amount might be used for transit. Jodi said that approximately \$80,000 must be reserved for the Fair Housing Program, currently administered by Prairie State Legal Services, as this is the only funding source for that program. During a potential transition away from devoting the remaining CDBG funds to public service programs, she thought it would help to use non public service funds for facilities improvements on the agencies' buildings and for housing, with as much funding as possible going to transit, depending on viable pilot programs.

6.0 Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.