



CITY OF  
URBANA

## Community Development Commission

*UNAPPROVED*

### MINUTES

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

January 26, 2021, virtually via Zoom

City of Urbana, 400 S Vine St, Urbana, IL 61801

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chairperson Heinze-Silvis called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

**Commission Members Present:** Anne Heinze-Silvis, Robert Freeman, Abdul Hakeem Salaam, Patricia Jones

**Commission Members Excused/Absent:** Chris Diana

**Others Present:** Sheila Dodd, Grants Management Manager; Breaden Belcher, Community Development Specialist; HeatherAnn Layman, Office Specialist

**Staff Introductions:** Two new staff members in the Community Development Services Department introduced themselves to the Committee. Breaden Belcher, Community Development Specialist, and HeatherAnn Layman, Office Specialist.

**Approval of Minutes:** The October 27, 2020 minutes were presented for approval. Commissioner Freeman motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Heinze-Silvis, Freeman, Salaam, Jones

No: None

### **Additions to the Agenda:**

Sheila Dodd discussed the logistics of receiving public input during COVID-19 and asked the Commission for ideas on how to reach out to the public. Commissioners discussed the various Urbana neighborhood associations, and how to include them in a Zoom meeting to discuss the plan. Ms. Dodd will reach out to these groups.

**Public Input:** No public input was presented

### **Presentations:**

Staff Report

Ms. Dodd discussed the HUD CARES reporting requirements. The CAPER cannot be completed until all the CARES money has been spent. Process will be restarted once the CARES funding has been spent.

2021 plan was amended at the last meeting. Small business and rental assistance programs have been very successful. Over \$3 million have been received by local businesses from government

funding programs.

Neighborhood cleanup program will restart depending on COVID-19 vaccination rate, may be in the spring or early fall.

The department is working with Cunningham Township Supervisor's office to update the social service funding. The goal is to look at community needs that are not met elsewhere, and request that local agencies apply for grants to fund those programs.

Ms. Dodd provided the Committee with an update on the business and rental assistance programs. \$252,000 has been awarded to 27 local businesses, of this amount \$230,000 has been spent. 22 of the 27 businesses are woman or minority owned. 80 housing assistance program applications have been received. Of these 80 about 50% have been denied. Many applications were denied because renters were not within corporate limit. Others were denied because they did not show an impact due to COVID. But additional funding is available elsewhere. Denied applicants will be pointed toward those programs.

**Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business was presented

**New Business:**

First Followers Welcome Home Program: Home program brought to City Council in December. This program helps individuals recently released from prison find housing. The funding would also provide case management and an allowance for clothing and other necessary supplies. The grant period would be from July 2021 through December 2021. The program is already in place in Champaign. Ms. Dodd requested that the Commission move the proposal forward to Council with a recommendation. Commissioner Jones moves to approve. Commissioner Freeman seconds.

Aye: Heinze-Silvis, Freeman, Salaam, Jones

No: None

The motion is approved by the Commission.

CARES 3 Amendment: Ms. Dodd provided an update on the amendments. Budget after amendments made was \$1.3 million. 20% can be used for administrative funds. A portion of that will go to the new grants management software. \$5,000 spent on CSSF. \$575,000 of this funding dedicated to COVID-19 projects.

Funding priorities for Community Social Service Funding program discussed. Setting funding priorities for FY 2122 will focus on community needs. Commissioners agree that input should be sought from the community.

**Adjournment:** Seeing no further business, Chairperson Silvis adjourns meeting 6:58 PM

Recorded by:

**Breaden J Belcher**

Community Development Specialist