



*APPROVED*

**MINUTES**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 3, 2023, City Council Chambers**

**400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801**

**Call to Order:** At 6:04 p.m., Chairperson Anne Heinze-Silvis called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:** The roll was called by Community Development Coordinator, Breaden Belcher. A quorum was in place.

**Commission Members Present:** Anne Heinze-Silvis, DeShawn Williams, and Patricia Jones

**Commission Members Excused/Absent:** Rev. Robert Freeman and Chris Diana. Commissioner Shawn Green passed away on December 3, 2022. There was a minute of silence in his memory.

**Others Present:** Sheila Dodd, Grants Management Division Manager; Breaden Belcher, Community Development Coordinator; and Hillary Ortiz, Office Specialist

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes for the November 22, 2022 meeting was made by Commissioner Jones. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, at it carried unanimously.

**Petitions and Communications:** There were no Petitions or Communications to discuss.

**Audience Participation:** There were no audience members present. No public comments were received.

**Staff Report:** Mrs. Dodd provided an update regarding Urbana's HOME Consortium CHDO funding applications. She stated that First Followers has already submitted their application, though the City is still waiting to receive one from Habitat for Humanity. City Staff are expecting to receive their application later this week. Funding considerations will be presented to the commissioners at the next CD Commission meeting.

Mr. Belcher told the commissioners that there will be a Public Hearing for the FY 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan in a couple of weeks. A notice for this meeting will be sent out soon. Commissioners were asked to contact Mr. Belcher if they knew of any community groups who would be interested in allowing City staff to present the AAP during one of their regularly scheduled meetings.

Several Community Development Commission seats are currently open. Mr. Belcher requested the commissioners recommend any community members they believed would make a good fit.

Mrs. Dodd stated that the CD Commission is currently slated to have 9 members on the commission, but now would be a good time for the commissioners should consider whether a 7-member group would be more manageable. If decided upon, the commissioners would need to officially vote on the topic before any bylaws can be changed. A request to include this subject on the January 24th agenda was proposed by the Commissioners.

Jeremy Ryder, a new hire, will be joining the team on Monday, September 9. He will fill Mr. Belcher's former role as Community Development Coordinator.

**Old Business:** There was no unfinished business to discuss.

**New Business:** Mr. Belcher told the commissioners that he will be moving the discussion of the Urbana HOME Consortium CHDO Agreements to the next CD Commission Meeting, in order to allow staff time to review the Habitat for Humanity application once it has been submitted.

The Housing and Homelessness Innovation Grant team has chosen a few projects/programs that they would like to recommend for financing. Mr. Belcher reminded the commissioners that the HHI Grant Program was discussed at the October CD Commission meeting and the open application period for this grant ran from November 4 to December 12. During the week of December 12 through the 16th, staff from the cities of Urbana and Champaign collaborated to analyze and score each application. Each city then decided which projects or programs they would like to suggest for financing. This month's packet includes details on the projects/programs the City of Urbana has chosen. Mrs. Dodd pointed out that only around \$3 million of the \$5.8 million in funding made available by this new HHI Grant will be used to support the activities that the two cities have selected for recommendation. Although there are currently no particular plans in place to do so, staff may bring forth additional projects or initiatives to use the remaining funding at a later date. Mr. Belcher stated that in order for the organizations to be prepared to begin implementing their programming on July 1, 2023, City Staff is giving the distribution of this round's funding and signing of each Organization's agreements top priority.

After a brief discussion, Chairperson Anne Heinze-Silvis requested a vote on whether or not the commissioners wanted to recommend the projects/programs to City Council for approval. Commissioner Jones moved to forward the funding recommendations to City Council, with the recommendation for approval in their current form. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and unanimous approval through a voice vote was granted.

**Study Session:** There were no Study Session items for this agenda.

**Adjournment:** At 6:28 p.m., Chairperson Anne Heinze-Silvis adjourned the meeting.

Recorded by

Hillary L. Ortiz  
Office Specialist