

Meeting Minutes

Housing & Community Development Advisory Council
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 4:00 pm
Location: 2101 O'Neil Avenue, Room 104

Attendees:

- Chair: Wendy Soto
- Vice-Chair: Steve Ganison
- Secretary: Elizabeth Haigler (attended via Zoom)
- Councilman: Joseph Bainbridge (attended via Zoom)
- Councilman: Ramon Moya
- Councilman: J.C. Manalo
- Councilman: Justin Huntley
- City Councilman Ken Esquibel

City Staff Present:

- Mayor's Representative: Renee Smith
- Community Development Manager: Amy Gorbey

Sub-recipients Present:

- Executive Director of Safehouse Services, Carla Thurin
- Grant Writer, Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County: Jen Solis
- Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County: Dan Dorsch (attended via Zoom).
- Executive Director of Needs Inc.: Kristin Erin Balderaz (attended via Zoom).
- Executive Director of Equal Justice Wyoming: Angie Dorsch (attended via Zoom).

I. Call to Order

- Chair Soto called the meeting to order at 3:59 pm.
- Introductions. Welcome City Councilman Ken Esquibel from Ward III, who will be the new City Council liaison for the Housing and Community Development Advisory Council.

II. Approval of the Minutes for December 2023

- The minutes for December 2023 were approved as written at 4:05 pm.
 - Motion: Councilman Moya
 - Second: Secretary Haigler
 - Discussion: None

III. Review Program Year 2024 Community Development Block Grant Applications

The Council reviewed and discussed the four Public Service and two General Service Applications for the 2024 CDBG Program Year. Executive Directors Carla Thurin from Safehouse Services, Kristen-Erin Balderaz from Needs Inc., Angie Dorsch from Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation, and Dan Dorsch from Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County provided overviews of the projects under consideration for funding and answered the Council's questions about the applications.

The council discussed how to distribute the funding that was anticipated to be available for the Public and General Service categories. The funds available for the Public Service Category are expected to be \$65,000. Applicants applied for \$81,000 for Public Service projects, \$16,000 more than the funds available. The Council discussed how to distribute the funds available. There was a motion by Councilman Huntley and a second by Councilman Ganison, all members of the council voted to recommend the following award amounts for the Public Service category:

- Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation: \$18,000 for Legal Services.
- Needs Inc.: \$20,000 for Food Assistance.
- Safehouse Services: \$17,000 for Utility Assistance and \$10,000 for the Victims Assistance Fund.
- The Council unanimously approved the recommendations for the Public Service Category at 6:02 pm

The funds available for the General Service Category are anticipated to be \$387,409. Applicants applied for \$388,409 for General Service projects, \$1,000 more than the funds available. The Council discussed how to distribute the funds available. There was a motion by Councilman Huntley and a second by Councilman Ganison, and all members of the council voting determined the following recommendations:

- Habitat for Humanity of Laramie County:
 - \$88,409 for Rehabilitation for Low-to-Moderate Income Homeowners
 - \$299,000 for Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Property for a Habitat Family.
- The Council unanimously approves the recommendations for the General Service Category at 6:20 pm.

IV. Other Business

- None.

Adjournment

There was a motion by Councilman Huntly and a second by Councilman Ganison. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.

- Motion: Councilman Huntly
- Second: Councilman Ganison

The next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.