



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND)
Advisory Commission
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2021
Approved



Call to Order

The Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Advisory Commission meeting was initialized at 4:00 p.m. using via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was staffed by the Anchorage Health Department (AHD), Human Services Division (HSD), Community Safety and Development (CSD).

I. Roll Call

Commissioners Present	Commissioners Absent	Guests
<p>S J Klein, Chair Niki Burrows Noel Rea Giovanna Gambardella Wadeen Hepworth</p> <p><u>AHD, CSD Staff</u> Nicole Lebo, Human Services Division Manager Karen Bell, Program Manager Andrea Nester, Program Manager James Boehm, Senior Neighborhood Planner Valerie Madison, Senior Office Associate</p>	<p>Chelsea Owens, Vice Chair (U) Josh Louwerse (E)</p>	<p>Jim Anderson, Board of Alaska Literacy Program Lori Pickett, Alaska Literacy Program Jamar Hill, Gamers Sports Travel/RBI Alaska</p>

II. Approval of February 3, 2021 HHAND Agenda meeting called to order 4:19 p.m.

<u>MOTION:</u> Commissioner Rea
<u>SECOND:</u> Commissioner Burrows
<u>DISCUSSION:</u>
<u>VOTE:</u> Motion carried

III. Approval of January 6, 2021 HHAND Minutes

<u>MOTION:</u> Commissioner Rea
<u>SECOND:</u> Commissioner Burrows
<u>DISCUSSION:</u> None
<u>VOTE:</u> Motion carried

IV. Conflict of Interest & Annual Disclosure of Present Economic Interest

None

V. Public Comments

Introductions:

- Jim Anderson, Board of Alaska Literacy Program
- Lori Pickett, Alaska Literacy Program
- Jamar Hill, Gamers Sports Travel/RBI Alaska, introduced himself and provided an overview of his personal background, program history, some project goals and target audience. He outlined some of the social issues and challenges that are present with the program environment. Partnership with GCI for internet access.

VI. Old Business

A. Discussion continued to outline the 2021 HHAND commission goals

- a. Giovanna Gambardella expressed interest in getting involved with the city zoning and further proposed that the commission engage in some of those activities as well.
- b. Chair to extend an invitation to Tom Davis to present details on the zoning changes being made to Title 21. Target invitation date to the March 2, 2021 monthly HHAND meeting.
- c. Housing stock suggested as one of the commissions main 2021 focus goals with a general group consensus.
- d. Unmet community needs.
 - i. Example: Pre-K education or Headstart programs – exist within the municipality, however, are not accessible to all with regards to location/transportation means.
- e. Commission member consensus to proactively engage with the upcoming new administration to understand intended policy, direction, and have get an overview of funds to see where there could be alignment for HHAND commission goals.
 - i. Plan for the Chair or commission designee to meet with the new mayor and/or appointed staff at least once to establish the administration's expectations for the commission.
- f. James Boehm reiterated that the current public comment period for the 2020 Action Plan still has two weeks left, and that it would be helpful to present a Resolution that the HHAND commission is in support of the projected plans.
- g. Karen Bell also reminded the commission that the current Consolidated Plan will closeout in 2022, and that the process for the next Consolidated Plan Five Year Plan is about to commence. It would be helpful to have HHAND commission engagement in that process as well.

B. 2021 Action Plan Cares-Act CV funds

- a. Karen provided a recap of the Housing and Homelessness workgroup, meeting summaries, and pertinent due dates for public input with regard to the Cares-Act CV funds.
 - i. Public comment meeting was held on January 26th. No public comments were submitted at that time, but several people were in attendance to listen to the presentation, which is now posted to the AHD, CSD website. Public comments were received in writing and were also posted to the website for review.
 - ii. Some pre-application meetings have taken place and others have been scheduled to take place with organizations interested in projects directly relating to preparing for, preventing, and responding to the Corona Virus COVID – 19. The informational flyer distributed earlier this year highlighted February 5th as the due date for those interested to contact us.
 - iii. The collection, review and selection process of eligible applications are planned to take place within the next month. Information regarding those selections will then be included in a Substantial Amendment for submission in a presentation to the Assembly.
- b. Chair requested a briefing of funding details covered in the public hearing on January 26th. Karen provided a high-level overview of funding allocation categories:
 - i. \$7.4 million CARES Act funding – specifically related to (ESG) Emergency Solutions Grant – which is to respond to the COVID-19 in the population of persons experiencing homelessness or people at risk of experiencing homelessness.
 - ii. (CDBG) Community Development Block Grant – Currently \$2.4 million unallocated funds for each grant so \$5 million for each grant that we are looking to allocate.
 - iii. Engage the public and speak with organizations that host activities serving the homelessness population or the low to very-low income populations so we can dedicate funds that benefit the national objectives & requirements of HUD.
 1. The Municipality of Anchorage is currently focusing on outflow for homeless shelters
 - a. Rapid rehousing
 - b. Permanent housing
 - c. Moving away from congregate shelters & projects that support that
 - iv. During COVID-19 the CDC has advised that the safest place for persons to be is in a home with running water, separation, and isolation. Therefore, the focus is on outflow from the shelter environment.

- v. Chair inquired about HUD’s directive on the use of some of those funds to be used on vaccination efforts.
- vi. Karen indicated she is not aware of the specifics on regulations and funding details in relation to the vaccinations program, but that it is not the target area for the particular types of HUD grants that we are presenting on here today.
- vii. Karen offered to prepare an overview at the next HHAND meeting outlining the findings from the pre-applications meetings with organizations that have taken place.
- viii. No further comments.

VII. New Business

C. AHD Presentation on the Draft 2020 and 2021 Action Plan - As Advertised this forum will serve as the Public Hearing Comment Platform for the 2020 Draft Action Plan.

- a. Chair announced that following the AHD presentation the commission will recognize the floor to host the public hearing as advertised.
- b. Once the presentation is complete, agency personnel will have five minutes to present comments, and public guest will each have three minutes to present comments.
- c. Overview of presentation. Karen Bell to present high-level description of the funding for and timeline for 2020 & 2021 Action Plans and James Boehm to discuss in depth the projects that are being proposed in the 2020 Action Plan.
 - i. Review of the AHD mission statement “Public Health Working for All of Us All of the Time” - Highlighted the 10 Essential Public Health Services which serve to outline the framework of our public health goals.
 - ii. “Equity” was recently added to the center of those essentials because the goal of public health is to achieve optimal health and well-being for all.
- d. Annual Action Plans identify the specific programs and projects that address the goals stated in the Consolidated Plan.
- e. The 2020 Draft Action Plan provides a list of all proposed projects – currently toward the end of the public process – current Con Plan 2018-2022. Looking for project ideas for the 2021 Action Plan currently at the beginning of that process.
- f. 2020 Draft Annual Action Plan
 - i. HUD Funding includes: CDBG \$1,818,770, HOME \$857,961, \$550,000 for HTF, and ESG \$151,146 for a total of \$3,337,877.
 - 1. CDBG – Has the national objective that most people served are low income to moderately low income.
 - 2. ESG – Emergency Solutions Grant - Serving the homeless population and people at risk of experiencing homelessness.
 - 3. HOME - focuses on housing
 - 4. HTF – Creating more affordable housing in the Anchorage area

- g. 2021 Draft Action Plan process is in the beginning stages. MOA is currently accepting public input.
 - i. HUD funding anticipated:
 - 1. CDBG - \$1,818,770, HOME - \$723,361, and ESG \$151,146 for a total of \$2,683,277 (HTF – not included in these numbers as it is not a direct grant to the Municipality).
 - ii. Timeline – 2020 Action Plan
 - 1. February 16th – Public Comment Period Ends, March 9th or later – Introduction to the Assembly, March 23rd or later – Public hearing and vote at the Assembly, May 16th or later – HUD Approval.
 - iii. Tentative Timeline – 2021 Action Plan, February 16th – Initial Public Comment Period Ends, March and April – Application and Selection Process, May 1st – Start of 30-day comment period on draft Action Plan, Mid-May – Public Hearing, June 22nd – Introduction at the Assembly, July 13th – Public hearing and vote at the Assembly, September 15th – HUD Approval
- h. Guidance on how to locate information on the Human Services, Community Safety & Development website with contact information for any questions.
- i. Chair noted that questions are open to the entire audience, and not just the commissioners.
- j. No questions at that time. The floor was opened for presentation by James Boehm.
- k. Review of the 2020 Project & Program Tables and provided high level details on each.
- l. Discussion regarding remaining 2020 ESG funding with inquiry about using those funds for job loss, homeless prevention, and rapid rehousing.
- m. James outlined that the COVID monies were allocated to the 2019 Action Plan.
 - i. COVID needs – we have received a lot of money and HUD required us to add it to the 2019 funds as SA#4 – public process – interest – and do another SA#4.
- n. No more questions for James
- o. Chair opened floor to members of public – that wish to speak - agencies get (5) minutes and people from the public get (3) minutes.
- p. Jamar Hill and Lori Pickett requested time to comment today. Their comments along with Rural Cap have been posted to our website.
 - i. Lori recited her commentary as was submitted to the CSD website for review.
 - 1. No questions for Lori.
 - ii. Jamar left the meeting prior to comment period, but did submit his in writing to CSD, and those are posted to the CSD website for review.
 - iii. No further comments from the public today. We will consider the public hearing closed for the Action Plans.

D. Annual Elections for HHAND Commission Chair and Vice Chair

- a. Discussion took place regarding the need for holding the election with questions regarding guidelines on when those elections are to take place. Within the next to months at a minimum.
 - i. Chair is interested in continuing to serve.
 - ii. SJ to have a conversation with Vice Chair to explore interest in continuing to serve.
 - iii. Discussion regarding opening the opportunity to new commission members.
 - iv. Secretary to review guidelines with regard to seat elections and report back to commission.

E. Chair to extend an invitation to Tom Davis to an upcoming HHAND meeting and present on the changes to Title 21.

F. Draft correspondence to Assembly on 2020-01 regarding checking on the status of the Tiny-Homes projects.

- a. Sent copy of 2020-01 Resolution

VIII. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Project Subcommittee:
 - i. Giovanna reported that she had sent out an email correspondence to Holly and Jonathon Cannon with the AK Generation Rehabilitation organization to check on their project status. She will report back to the Commission with any updates and is willing to help others interested grassroots organizations if need be.

B. Commissioner’s Comments

C. MOA Representative Report

IX. Adjourn

<u>MOTION:</u> Commissioner Burrows
<u>SECOND:</u> Commissioner Rea
<u>DISCUSSION:</u> Formulate recommendations to AHD for the 2020 & 2021 Action Plan
<u>VOTE:</u> Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 5:24p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2021 at 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.