

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2007

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Bob Masengill, Chairman
Jene Brogan
Pam Harvey
Sharon Marsh-Wyly
Richard Shlakman
Shirley Aguilar
Rick Grady

COMMISSIONER ABSENT

Betty Mahan, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Phyllis Jarrell, Director of Planning
Terrie Monroe, Sr. Community Development Coordinator
Dianne Landen, Community Development Coordinator
Jerry Bradley, Jr., Community Development Coordinator

The Community Relations Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Masengill at 6:33 p.m., Thursday, December 13, 2007.

The floor was open for public comments. No public comments were made.

Chairman Masengill recognized the newest members of the Community Relations Commission: Commissioners Shirley Aguilar and Rick Grady.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the September 13, 2007 Community Relations Committee meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Brogan seconded the motioned, which passed 7-0.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM AIDS SERVICES OF NORTH TEXAS TO EXTEND ITS BUFFINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT TO ALLOW THE EXPENDITURE OF THE REMAINDER OF THE GRANT FUNDS.

Jerry Bradley, Jr., Community Development Coordinator, introduced Pamela Barnes, CFO of AIDS Services and Suzan Stambaugh, Director of Clinical Services of AIDS Services.

Ms. Barnes stated that due to the CDBG grant funds and the Buffington Community Service Grant funds, the agency was caught in an overlapping of funding for the period from June to September, 2007. This left the agency with \$1,237.51 in unspent funds at the end of the grant year, September 30, 2007. A request was made to retain these funds and use them by January 31, 2008.

Mr. Bradley, Jr. asked the Commission to consider allowing the staff to approve extensions of contracts for a period of time and dollar amount. Mr. Bradley stated it could be time consuming coming to the Commission each time an agency requests an extension of contract. Mr. Bradley stated that within given parameters, the staff could extend contracts. The Commission requested that the issue of authorizing contract extensions be added to a future agenda for discussion.

Chairman Masengill asked for two separate motions for approval. The first motion was to approve the use of the \$1,237.51 by AIDS Services and the second motion was to approve a date that the funds must be used.

Commissioner Marsh-Wyly made a motion to approve the use of \$1,237.51 by AIDS Services. Commissioner Brogan seconded the motion, which passed 7-0. Commissioner Marsh-Wyly made a motion to set January 31, 2008, as the date that the funds must be used. Commissioner Brogan seconded the motion, which passed 7-0. Commissioner Shlakman stated that the extension of the contract be made with the simplest of paperwork.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPOINTMENT TO PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT DIVERSITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Phyllis Jarrell, Director of Planning, started the discussions on the Diversity Advocacy Committee. Chairman Masengill stated that one of the responsibilities of the Community Relations Commission is to appoint a member to the Diversity Advocacy Committee. Chairman Masengill asked for anyone who wished to be considered. Commissioner Brogan stated she would be very interested since she does work with the PISD and the Diversity Advocacy would be of interest. Commissioner Marsh-Wyly made a motion to appoint Jene Brogan to the Diversity Advocacy Committee. Commissioner Shlakman seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

AGENGA ITEM NO. 6 DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON COMMISSIONER VISITS TO GRANT APPLICANTS

In the past Commissioners visited a minimum of 2 agencies during the grant deliberation process. Commissioner Marsh-Wyly questioned the requirement of having written reports. Commissioner Marsh-Wyly stated that listening to the other Commissioners discuss the agency was a better gauge of the agency's operations.

Commissioner Shlakman's discussion centered around whether these visits to the agency had made any difference on funds given to the agencies. Commissioners Brogan and Marsh-Wyly agreed. Timing of the visits became another discussion and it was recommended by Commissioner Harvey that goals be given to the Community Relations Commission prior to the visits to make the visit more meaningful. Commissioner Shlakman stated that he would prefer that visits be made after the Community Relations Commission deliberations are completed and the funds have been allocated. Commissioner Shlakman stated the agencies would not feel the pressure to "perform" for the Community Relations Commission at the visits. Commissioner Shlakman made a motion to postpone agency visits until after the deliberation period for grantees. Commissioner Brogan seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION OF ACCEPTANCE OF SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FROM AGENCIES DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Commissioner Shlakman stated that the applications were clear about grantees not placing any pamphlets, brochures, or testimonials in the application package. He also stated that in his opinion the hearings were not for this supplemental information and he asked for comments. Commissioner Grady stated that all the information could be cumbersome and would prefer not to have it at the hearings.

Commissioner Brogan made a motion to exclude all peripheral information, brochures, pamphlets, videos, and handouts from public hearings. Commissioner Marsh-Wyly seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF GRANTS MADE TO JOURNEY HOME AND PLANO INTERNATIONAL PRESCHOOL

Terrie Monroe, Sr. Community Development Coordinator, stated that the Plano International Preschool had gone out of business after 40 years of operations. Ms. Monroe stated that the PIP had funds of about \$5,000 remaining in their CDBG account that would be returned to the City. Ms. Monroe stated the City had made several grants and loans to PIP totaling approximately \$183,000. Ms. Monroe stated she had spoken to Mark Roy of Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) about the repayment of these funds since some of the funding deadlines had not been met. Ms. Monroe stated the PIP was leasing the building to another for-profit preschool and the building was scheduled to be sold in January. At the time of sale, a determination will have to be made as to how much, if any, PIP will owe the City and/or HUD. Commissioner Harvey asked the Commissioners to remember how much value the PIP brought to the citizens of the City of Plano. Commissioner Shlakman asked the Staff to get the City attorneys to look at the contract, review the liens on the building, and make a recommendation that would resolve the issues at hand.

Mr. Bradley, Jr. reminded the Community Relations Commission that the funds to the PIP were used as a down payment on the building and that a second lien was placed on the property. Again, Commissioner Shalkman asked the City Attorneys to get involved. Ms. Monroe mentioned that Mark Roy of HUD said that when a sale has been consummated a determination will be made as to the return of funds. The discussion ended with Ms. Jarrell and Monroe contacting City Attorneys for direction.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

REVIEW OF 2008 GRANT PROCESS AND PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Dianne Landen, Community Development Coordinator, gave a report to the Commission that stated she received 39 applications from 32 agencies. Two new agencies have applied this year, Special Care and Careers and Rape Crisis Center. Further questions from Commissioners included: How did the application process go? Ms. Landen stated that it was a smooth process. The numerical applications were not working so there were questions from the agencies, however, the majority of agencies were without issues. Chairman Masengill explained to the new members that the Community Relations Commission would review each application and while it is a time sensitive project each person's expertise lends itself to an efficient review. The Community Relations Commission then requested that each audit that had findings, a copy of the letter to management on the findings be included with the Staff review. Chairman Masengill asked the Community Relations Commission to "rethink" the direction of the funds being used to provide emergency food, clothing, and shelter. The City Council has questioned Chairman Masengill on the fair and equitable distribution of funds.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

REPORT ON TRANSITION AND REVITALIZATION COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

Commissioner Marsh-Wyly reported on the discussions held by the Transition and Revitalization Commission to include:

- Rental housing inspection program now going to be permanent;
- Violations and fees determined by number of violations that were not addressed or resolved; and
- New rental units had more violations than older rental housing,

Another discussion was about the City of Richardson and their refund of home improvements to citizens who repaired their homes. Ms. Jarrell initiated a similar program in Plano which would give residents a rebate on their property taxes. Since the program is still in process no further comments were made.

Collin Creek Mall renovation will be underway in 2008. Pressure from competition is causing investors to remodel. City of McKinney is building a "brain campus" with several universities to retain young college graduates in Collin County

Chairman Masengill asked the two new Community Relations Commission members to introduce themselves. Rick Grady is the Marketing, Public Relations and Communications Vice President for the Texas Credit Union League, a trade association for the nearly 600 Texas credit unions. Rick is also involved with the Texas Credit Union Foundation, Friends of Consumer Freedom Foundation, and the Children's Miracle Network. Rick has lived in Plano since 1992 and is a former EDS employee. Shirley Aguilar has been in property management and housing. Ms. Aguilar has lived in Plano for 16 years. Ms. Aguilar is a realtor and is knowledgeable about Section 8 housing and bond programs.

Mr. Bradley, Jr. mentioned that staff would be getting requests for extensions of contract from Collin Children's Advocacy Center and Plano Community Housing. Mr. Bradley, Jr. asked the Community Relations Commission to consider allowing Staff to prepare these extensions within limits to avoid lengthy time delays. Chairman Masengill stated that it would be discussed as an agenda item at the January 29, 2008 meeting.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Masengill adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Bob Masengill, Chairman