

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
BOARD ROOM
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022 7:00P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Hayes; Trustees: Bertucci, Canty, Grasse, LaBedz, Schwingbeck and Tinaglia

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Baldino, Scaletta

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Recklaus, Village Manager; Charles Perkins, Director of Planning & Community Development; Nora Boyer, Housing Planner; Kim Peterson, Recording Secretary

SUBJECTS:

A. Public Hearing on the 2022 Annual Action Plan and Substantial Amendments to 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2021 Annual Action Plan

Other Business

Adjournment

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Hayes advised that there is just one item on the agenda tonight, which is a Public Hearing on the 2022 Annual Action Plan and Substantial Amendments to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2021 Annual Action Plan and asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Trustee Schwingbeck moved, seconded by Trustee LaBedz, to open the Public Hearing at 7:22 PM. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Public Hearing on the 2022 Annual Action Plan and Substantial Amendments to 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2021 Annual Action Plan

President Hayes thanked those social service agency representatives who were in the audience tonight for all of the great work they do on behalf of our community and surrounding communities for those in need. President Hayes advised that the Board is holding the Public Hearing to consider applications for Community Development Block Grant funding (CBDG).

Mr. Perkins advised that there are 22 requests for CBDG funding, which totals \$797,000, of which the grant can fund \$435,000. Mr. Perkins stated that all of these agencies have great causes, but once again, there are more needs than what the Village can fund. Staff is however recommending to fund as many as possible within the limits and rules the federal government provides for use of these funds. Mr. Perkins asked Ms. Boyer to go over each agency's request and then the meeting can open up for public comment.

Ms. Boyer advised that the first grant request is from District 214 Community Education Foundation, which provides individuals with a 34-week course of English as a second language. The Village has funded this program for several years and this year's request is for \$1,500, which would fund service to 5 Arlington Heights residents next year.

The next request is from Family Forward, formerly known as Faith Community Homes, which is a two-year program that provides low income working families with housing assistance and mentoring. The Village has funded this program before and the request is for \$3,500, which would fund service to 35 Arlington Heights residents next year.

The next request is from North Suburban Legal Aid clinic, in the amount of \$3,500, which would fund service to 5 out of the 35 Arlington Heights residents they expect to serve next year. This is the first time a grant application has been received from this organization.

The next request is from Connections to Care, formerly known as Escorted Transportation Service Northwest, who provides staff to schedule transportation by volunteer drives to take clients to medical and dental appointments. The Village has funded this program before and the request is for \$4,500, which would fund service to 85 Arlington Heights residents next year.

The next request is from Children's Advocacy Center, who provide advocacy and counseling to children and their families who are suspected to be victims of sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse. The Village has funded this program before and the request is for \$5,000, which would fund service to 56 Arlington Heights residents next year.

The next request is from LifeSpan, who serve victims of domestic violence through counseling and legal assistance. The Village has funded this program before and the request is for \$5,000, which would fund service to 50 of the 100 Arlington Heights residents they expect to serve next year.

The next request is from NW Center Against Sexual Assault, for their sexual violence intervention services, which provides counseling, crisis intervention and advocacy for victims of sexual violence or assault. The Village has funded this program before and the request is for \$5,000, which would fund service to 28 Arlington Heights residents next year.

The next request is from Resources for Community Living, for their affordable

housing options and support services program, which provides assistance to persons with disabilities to maintain housing and live as independently as possible in private housing in the community. The Village has funded this program before and the request is for \$5,000, which would fund service to 6 Arlington Heights residents next year.

The next request is from Suburban Primary Healthcare Counsel - Access to Care program, which assists low- and moderate-income individuals with access to healthcare. The Village has funded this program before and the request is for \$7,000, which would fund service to 25 of the 50 Arlington Heights residents they expect to serve next year.

The next request is from Wings Program, who provide emergency shelter and services for victims of domestic violence and also assist them with counseling and transitioning into safe housing. The Village has funded this program before and the request is for \$7,150, which would fund service to 10 of the 20 Arlington Heights residents they expect to serve next year.

The next request is from Little City Foundation, for their community day services program, which provides instruction and assistance with daily living to persons with disabilities. This is the first time a grant application has been received from this organization for regular CDBG funds and the request is for \$7,900, which would fund service to 29 Arlington Heights residents next year.

The next request is from Journey's The Road Home, for homeless services at the Hope Center, including case management, counseling and assistance with locating permanent housing. The Village has funded this program before and the request is for \$10,000, which would fund service to 52 of the 90 Arlington Heights residents they expect to serve next year.

The next request is from the Arlington Heights Park District Children at Play (CAP) program, in the amount of \$30,000. The Village has funded this program before, which has been split between the CDBG program and the General Fund. The amount of CDBG funding is \$9,000 and the amount from the General Fund is to not exceed \$29,000. The CAP program is a before and after school program and the CDBG funds are used to pay a portion of the family's cost of the program. The funds would provide subsidies to 25 Arlington Heights children next year.

The next request is from Northwest Compass for housing, counseling and assistance to homeless individuals. The Village has funded this program before and the request is for \$30,000, which would fund service to 180 of the 320 Arlington Heights residents they expect to serve next year.

Ms. Boyer advised that the next set of requests are considered more construction related programs, with the first one coming from Clearbrook, who are requesting \$22,685 for a group home kitchen renovation to improve accessibility. There are six individuals living in this home.

The next request is from Glenkirk, which is also for a group home renovation

project. They are requesting \$40,000 for exterior improvements to a group home in Arlington Heights and the number of residents currently in this home is six.

The next request is from Shelter, Inc., which is also for a group home project. They are requesting \$94,790 for improvements inside and outside of the home and the number of residents currently in this home is 12.

The next request is from Full Circle Communities, who are a developer looking to develop a new permanent supportive housing apartment building in Arlington Heights. They are requesting \$100,000 for the acquisition and site infrastructure, with an expected number of residents at the facility to be 60.

The next request is from the Village of Arlington Heights Department of Planning and Community Development Single-Family Rehabilitation program, which is a program the Village has had since 1978. This program allows for low- and moderate-income homeowners to obtain a zero percent interest deferred loan to do necessary renovations on their home and the funds are normally repaid when the home is sold. The requested funding is \$100,000, which would assist three homeowners next year.

The next request is from the Village of Arlington Heights Department of Planning and Community Development Group Home Renovation program, which provides funding to the agency's group home renovation programs who have applied for CBDG funds, which this year includes, Clearbrook, Glenkirk and Shelter, Inc. The requested funding is \$100,000.

The next request is from the Village of Arlington Heights Department of Planning and Community Development Infrastructure program, which provides infrastructure improvements to HUD designated low- and moderate-income areas. The past few years, the Village has used this money for street resurfacing in low- and moderate-income areas. The requested funding is \$150,000 and the number of residents served by this program is approximately 700.

The final request is from the Village of Arlington Heights Department of Planning and Community Development to cover CBDG Administrative Costs, including salaries and soft costs, such as audit costs. The requested funding is \$64,800.

Mr. Perkins next presented a spreadsheet with Staff's funding recommendations for each individual agency and explained how the allocation for Public Services next year is \$52,275, which is down based on the HUD caps. Mr. Perkins advised that Staff's recommendation is to maintain all of those agencies who were funded last year at the same funding level, with the exception of the Arlington Heights Park District Children at Play (CAP) program, which is being reduced to balance the budget. In addition, the two new agencies that requested funding, Staff is not recommending funding even though they are for good causes. Mr. Perkins also advised that Staff is recommending the Construction Projects, including Clearbrook, Glenkirk and Shelter, Inc., be funded from the Group Home Renovation budget. Staff is also recommending the Single-Family Rehabilitation program, Infrastructure program and Administrative Costs program, be funded in the amounts they

requested. The allocation for the Construction Projects is \$318,240, which added to the Public Services allocation of \$52,275, totals \$435,315.

Ms. Boyer explained how the substantial amendments that are being proposed to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2021 Annual Action Plan are the result of both COVID and Ms. Boyer's errors and went on to discuss these changes in more detail.

Mr. Perkins advised that Staff is not recommending to fund Full Circle Communities, as they feel it is a little premature and they have yet to file their application for zoning. Mr. Perkins explained how there is no Board action required tonight, but the Plan will go for a 30-day public comment period, with a second public hearing on July 18th. The Plan will be available online and any questions can be emailed to Ms. Boyer.

President Hayes asked the audience if anyone wished to address the Board, which no one did, therefore he asked the Board for any questions/comments.

Trustee Bertucci asked Mr. Perkins if the spreadsheet that listed the 2022-2023 draft expenditures was included in their packet, which Mr. Perkins advised that it was not, as it is typically presented the evening of the meeting because there still may input coming from the Health Department or Police Department before it is finalized. Trustee Bertucci asked if in the future, the Board could receive this information prior to the meeting. Trustee Bertucci also asked why Staff is not recommending the NW Center against Sexual Assault, the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and the Connections to Care program be funded to their grant request, as they programs should be more of a priority over some of the other programs such as the Children at Play (CAP) program. Mr. Perkins explained how this is a tough decision as to where to allocate funds, as all of these programs are important, but it is ultimately up to the Board and if they choose to change the funding amounts, dollars can be moved around in the Public Service category. Mr. Perkins went on to explain that if the Board chooses to not fund the CAP program through the CBDG, then that money will have to come from the General Fund. Trustee Bertucci advised that he tends to gravitate towards the crisis agencies, which would be his preference. Mr. Recklaus explained how Staff tries to not reduce or dramatically change the allocations that have been given in prior years, unless there is a change in programming, as most agencies are dependent on the CBDG funds to maintain their program. Trustee Bertucci asked if the CAP program is a separate 501c3 from the Arlington Heights Park District tax body, which Mr. Recklaus said that it is not. Trustee Bertucci stated that he has a preference away from other taxing bodies before crisis agencies that are 501c3. Mr. Perkins explained how the CAP program is jointly funded by the Park District, School District and Village, and the Village's role is to provide the scholarships to low- and moderate-income families so these children can participate in the program. The Village Board can allocate funds from a different source if they choose to do so.

Trustee LaBedz stated that she does not agree with Trustee Bertucci and supports Staff's recommendations, as she believes there are other crisis organizations, such as WINGS, and would have a hard time weighing one over the other.

President Hayes reminded everyone that the Board is not approving these recommendations tonight, as there are a number of days to receive additional public input before they approve these recommendations.

Trustee Grasse advised that she works with a number of people in her job who have accessed many of these agencies and is so grateful for the important work that they do and wishes the Board had more money to fund everyone at 100%. Trustee Grasse stated that she believes the CAP program is very beneficial and helps children and families to prevent bad things from happening later on in the future.

Trustee Tinaglia acknowledged what a difficult decision this is to figure out who gets what, considering all of the hard work these organizations do to help people in need. Trustee Tinaglia advised that it appears from the 2022-2023 draft expenditures that no agency's funding was reduced from what they received in 2021-2022 even though the money allotted in the 2022-2023 CBDG budget is lower and the cost of everything is going up. Trustee Tinaglia stated that he believes the CAP program is a blessing for many families and is comfortable with Staff's recommended funding for this program. In addition, Trustee Tinaglia stated that he likes what Staff did with the construction program, in that they are giving the Housing Commission control over the group home rehabilitation projects.

Trustee Canty thanked Ms. Boyer and Mr. Perkins for putting all of this together, as well as the organizations applying for these funds, as they all do such great work, which makes it even harder to make these decisions. Trustee Canty advised that she is looking forward to the public being able to provide their comments during the next 30 days.

Trustee Schwingbeck thanked Mr. Perkins and Ms. Boyer for their presentation and asked if this is the first time the public service agencies have seen the spreadsheet that lists the 2022-2023 draft expenditures, which Mr. Perkins stated that it is. Trustee Schwingbeck asked about the Infrastructure program and if the projects are already set, which Ms. Boyer advised that the projects are identified by Public Works - Engineering Division, who provide plans a couple years out. However, the location, should this amount be approved, has not been solidified yet, although they keep track of what areas are eligible and what projects would be next on their list. Trustee Schwingbeck asked where some of the areas might be in Arlington Heights, which Ms. Boyer advised the townhome development on Embers, south of Algonquin, as well as some streets near Kensington and Northwest Hwy. Trustee Schwingbeck stated that there are a lot of great agencies here that are in need of money, but perhaps there might be some money in this category that could be moved to some of these other areas if need be. Mr. Perkins advised that under the HUD rules, funds cannot be moved from the Construction category to the Public Service category.

Trustee Bertucci asked how many of these agencies have commitments that if they're not funded through the CBDG funds, they will be funded through the General Fund, which Mr. Perkins advised that it is only the CAP program that has this type of arrangement. Mr. Recklaus advised that the Board can take funds out of

the General Fund to fund these agencies, however the CBDG program is the mechanism by which the Village typically pays for these types of expenses. Mr. Perkins stated that it is an unwritten policy of the Board's to not use general tax payer funds to fund non-profit agencies, which can always change if the Board wishes to do so. Trustee Bertucci clarified that he believes all of these agencies are important, however he does have a preference towards the crisis organizations and is confident that they are in need of more funds, even if meant taking some money from the General Fund.

President Hayes advised that historically this Village Board, and prior Village Boards, have not crossed the line to fund social services agencies through the General Fund, which are tax payer dollars. President Hayes would be concerned with releasing funds, even though it might be a worthy expenditure of funds, to one social service agency and then saying no to others.

Trustee Tinaglia stated that he agrees with President Hayes and explained how the Board can only do so much and tonight and this whole process is about finding an equitable way to divide \$435,000.

Trustee LaBedz thanked all of the agencies for all they do, as it is such important work. Trustee LaBedz stated that she does agree with President Hayes and not using tax payer dollars for public service.

Trustee Tinaglia moved, seconded by Trustee LaBedz, to close the Public Hearing at 8:21 PM. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

President Hayes advised the next Public Hearing will be on July 18th and anyone wishing to make comments can call Ms. Boyer or send her an email or letter.

Adjournment

Trustee LaBedz moved, seconded by Trustee Tinaglia, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.