

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (NICC)

Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford Avenue

Monday, September 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONER BELL
COMMISSIONER BLACKMUN
COMMISSIONER DE LA O
COMMISSIONER KEARNEY
COMMISSIONER KESTER
COMMISSIONER RUBIN
COMMISSIONER TRAN

Absent: Commissioner Bell, Blackmun

Commissioner Blackmun joined the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT: Monica Covarrubias, Sr. Project Manager; Timothy Throne, Sr. Program Specialist; Svetlana Moure, Recording Secretary; Judy Moore, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Rubin.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.

MINUTES: Commissioner Kearny moved to receive and file the Minutes from the April 17, 2023 Meeting, seconded by Commissioner de la O. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote as follows:

Ayes: (4) de la O, Kearney, Kester, Rubin
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (2) Bell, Blackmun
Abstain: (1) Tran

MATTERS FROM STAFF:

PUBLIC HEARING – PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2022-23 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)

To request the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission conduct a Public Hearing regarding the City's FY 22-23 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (otherwise known as the CAPER), and to recommend the report's transmittal to City Council.

DISCUSSION

The CAPER details how the City carried out the projects and activities identified in the previously approved FY 22-23 Action Plan. The CAPER evaluates the City's progress toward the priority objectives addressing housing and community needs, as outlined in the 5-Year Consolidated Plan. The reporting period for this CAPER is from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. During FY 22-23, the City utilized Federal funding to expand or preserve affordable housing opportunities, improve low-income neighborhoods through public infrastructure improvements, and assist special needs groups such as senior citizens, homeless, and those who are at-risk of becoming homeless.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Overall, the City assisted approximately 22,748 low-income individuals through various programs and services. Highlights of FY 2022-23 accomplishments include:

- Created and retained 47 jobs through job retention grants;
- Provided 369 home delivered and/or congregate meals to Garden Grove seniors;
- Provided rental assistance via the Valley View Senior Villas Program and the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rental Transition Program to 31 homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless households;
- Provided homeless services to 178 individuals;
- Assisted 3,050 low-income resident through infrastructure development;
- Assisted 18 low-income residents with Home Improvement Grants;
- Assisted 6,660 low-income resident with various public and community services; and
- Provided community outreach and education to 7,319 individuals.

The FY 19-20 Action Plan was amended to include CARES Act funding that was awarded to the City by HUD in April 2020. The CARES Act funding expenditures and performance outcomes for completed projects are included in the FY 22-23 CAPER. In total, the City expended an additional \$1,416,507 in CARES-Act funding in FY 22-23 to develop and expand programs in response to the Coronavirus.

Accomplishments include:

CDBG-CV ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided mental health and wellness services to 4,509 individuals through the Be-Well Mobile Response Unit; and
- Provided an additional 30 individuals with workforce development services through the Workforce Activation and Readiness Program.

ESG-CV ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided 178 homeless individuals with street outreach, homeless prevention, and emergency shelter services; and
- Provided 70 households (174 individuals) with rapid rehousing services.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Per the HUD approved Citizen Participation Plan, the City is required to make the CAPER available to the public for review and comment for a minimum of 30 days. A public notice was published in English, Spanish and Vietnamese newspapers announcing the public comment period (August 25 – September 26). All public comments received are included in the final submission of the CAPER to HUD.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Tran asked staff to explain the 'lead-based paint' home improvement program. Staff responded that lead-based paint inspections were done through the Home Repair program, which requires lead-based paint tests to be conducted throughout the home prior to rehabilitation commencing to ensure the safety of both the contractors and members of the household. Income eligibility for the program is determined first and households are chosen to move forward through a blind raffle. The City holds two Home Repair Program raffles per year to choose the 20 projects that will move forward.

Commissioner Kearney asked if the emergency food assistance program might be expanded to homeless families. Staff mentioned they would consider the recommendation and noted that current funds were already allocated, and a revised meal distribution plan would not occur until the new fiscal year. Staff also mentioned that Brackens Kitchen primary goal is to feed the homeless, and that they partner with our Family Resource Center, and there are other partners who provide this service.

Commissioner de la O asked staff how the Commission determines how to spend the \$800,000 allocated to infrastructure. Staff responded that they work with Public Works to determine which neighborhoods would be eligible for federal funding assistance through CDBG.

Commissioner Rubin asked staff if outreach could be translated to additional languages such as Arabic or Korean. Staff responded that the City's Citizen Participation Plan requires publication in English, Spanish, Vietnamese newspapers, to meet HUD's requirements. Information is also typically translated to Korean, but additional languages would consume more resources.

Commissioner Kester asked staff if leftover funds were dispersed. Staff responded that funds are fully allocated into programs and any funds left over are anticipated and reprogrammed into similar activities and goals that are consistent with last year's goals.

Commissioner Kester asked if we were able to collaborate funds with other cities. Staff replied that the Central Cities Navigation Center is an example of a collaboration of funds between the Cities of Garden Grove, Fountain Valley and Westminster. The City of Garden Grove was allocated 50 beds in the Central Cities Navigation Center.

Commissioner Kester expressed his concerns with crimes in local businesses such as the Garden Grove Walmart where he witnessed theft. Staff responded that outreach also provides services to businesses and any concerns for trouble areas should be reported to the Police Department's Special Resource Team (SRT) for a response.

Chair de la O opened the Public Hearing to receive comments. Seeing no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the NICC hold a public hearing to receive comments concerning the FY 22-23 CAPER and recommend its transmission to City Council.

It was moved by Commissioner Kearney and seconded by Commissioner Blackmun, to accept staff's recommendation to transmit the FY 2022-23 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), along with any public comments, to City Council for adoption. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote as follows:

Ayes: (6) Blackmun, de la O, Kearney, Kester, Rubin, Tran
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (0) Bell

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Tran asked if the City has an annual homeless count. Staff responded no, the count is provided by the County every two years with the next count targeted for January 2024. In recent years the number of individuals experiencing homelessness has increased.

Commissioner Blackmun asked if the City checks on the affordable housing providers. Staff stated yes, that City Staff monitors the performance of all of the affordable housing developments within the city annually. Construction work with American Family Housing's Stuart Drive Permanent Supportive Housing development was recently completed and is now fully occupied. We will be conducting our first monitoring on this project next year now that the project is fully occupied.

Commissioner Kester asked if affordable housing through HUD funding has anything to do with Section 8. Staff noted that these are 2 different programs. The Housing Authority pays the difference between the affordable rent and fair market rate rent. Additionally, developers of affordable housing are incentivized to accept voucher holders.

Commissioner Rubin asked if the City has a program that serves the McKinney Vento homeless within the city. Staff replied yes, families are included in the homelessness counts and programs are dedicated to students, such as Stand Up for Kids' Street Outreach Program.

Commissioner de la O asked if the City still offered the WARP program for job training. Staff replied yes, the program was renewed for 2023-24.

Commissioner Tran asked if the City's park open space has lessened in regard to the number of homes in the City, and if schools can keep their playgrounds open. Staff responded that the Community Services Department, and Parks & Recreation, track the green open space, however, for development projects, there are state requirements for open space/parks, with concessions if a developer provides affordable housing. Staff added that the City has no jurisdiction over public access to school playgrounds.

Staff noted that the City's Economic Development and Housing Department has a new Director, Ursula Luna-Reynosa.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m. The next Meeting of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission will be held Monday, December 4, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA.

Svetlana Moure
Recording Secretary