



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Columbia Community Development Commission

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Room 1A, City Hall, 701

E. Broadway, Columbia

I. CALL TO ORDER

MR. FLETCHER: It's 7:00, so I'll call the meeting to order. Welcome to the January Community Development Commission meeting.

Present: 7 - Michael Fletcher, Pamela Forbes, Mitchell Ritter, Blaine Regan, Paul Whatley, Michael Salanski and Diane Suhler

Absent: 1 - Michelle Lambert

II. INTRODUCTIONS

MR. FLETCHER: Our first order of business is introductions. Paul, would you start, please?

MR. WHATLEY: Sure. My name is Paul Whatley, and I'm a Member at Large.

MR. RITTER: Mitch Ritter, Ward 2.

MS. FORBES: Pam Forbes, Ward 1.

MR. COLE: Randy Cole, City Staff.

MR. FLETCHER: Mike Fletcher, Member at Large.

MR. REGAN: Blaine Regan, 5th Ward -- 6th Ward. I always --

MR. SALANSKI: That's all right. Michael Salanski, 5th Ward.

MS. SUHLER: Diane Suhler, Community Development [sic] Commission Representative.

MR. ANSPACH: Gary Anspach, City of Columbia staff.

MR. FLETCHER: Thank you.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MR. FLETCHER: Next item is approval of the agenda. Does anyone have any comments or changes to tonight's agenda?

MR. SALANSKI: I'll move to approve the minutes [sic] from last month.

MR. FLETCHER: All right. And we need a second.

MR. WHATLEY: I'll second that.

MR. FLETCHER: Thank you, Paul. All in favor?

(Unanimous voice vote for approval.)

MR. FLETCHER: Motion carries. So we have an agenda.

Staff Memo

Attachments: [CDC Memo 1-10-18](#)

Discussed throughout the course of the meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft 12-13-17 Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Draft 12-13-17 Minutes](#)

MR. FLETCHER: Next is approval of the draft meeting minutes from the December 13th meeting. Does anyone have any comments on the meeting minutes? So I need a motion to approve those.

MR. REGAN: I'll motion to approve the minutes from the meeting last month.

MS. SUHLER: Second.

MR. FLETCHER: Second. Thank you. All in favor?

(Unanimous voice vote for approval.)

MR. FLETCHER: Motion carries. So we have approved the minutes.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

FY 2019 Community Development Needs Hearing

MR. FLETCHER: Next on the agenda is the public hearings. So, Randy, I think I'll turn it over to you.

MR. COLE: Sure. All right. Thanks. So every year we start out with public hearings so the public has an opportunity to come in and express what they think our critical priority needs we need to focus on as a part of planning for the next annual action plan, which we will be planning for the FY 2019 plan. So that process will open -- the RFP will open March 1st, so it is coming right up here in a couple months, which is also when we'll have our training. So if any new Commissioners want to come to that training, it's here that evening at 6:30 on March 1st. But this is really an opportunity for the public to come in before we open the RFP and express, hey, this is what we think the priority needs in our Community are.

If there's anything that falls outside of our five-year plan the people think we need to refocus on and the Commission agrees that we need to look at, that would mean we would need to amend the Consolidated Plan and have that go back before Council. So with that, I'll turn it back over to you, Mike. I know we have other agencies here, and people represented that might want to speak.

MR. FLETCHER: So I don't know what order we can go in. I guess we can just start with you, Scout. You wanted to make comments?

MR. MERRY: Yes.

MR. FLETCHER: And then if you'll sit at the end. And please introduce yourself and

you need to give your name and address, please.

MR. MERRY: Do you want me to do that now?

MR. FLETCHER: Yeah. And in terms of time, Paul, just for the sake of moving things along, can you give him five minutes?

MR. WHATLEY: Sure.

MR. FLETCHER: That should be sufficient for everybody.

MR. WHATLEY: Okay. Five minutes good?

MR. MERRY: That would be great. My name is Scout Merry. I work for Services For Independent Living at 1401 Hathman Place. Is that what you need? Is that all? Okay.

Yeah. We have been receiving the block grant funding and we -- we feel like the program that we use this for, which is minor home repair and -- and meeting access issues, building ramps or -- we do all kinds of ramps, and bathroom projects, a variety of -- of access issues. It helps meet the Consolidated Plan for preserving existing housing. We're not doing any new housing, but we are increasing accessibility in the homes in Columbia. About 95 percent of our projects are for home owners. Periodically, we will be able to do a small project for a renter, but we're really focusing on -- on home owners.

Our projects -- we -- in the fiscal year of 2016, we performed 33 projects and 35 in 2017. Our households in general are having income levels around -- you know, around \$1,000 a month. In 2016, the average was actually \$11,600, so a little under \$1,000 a month on average for our -- our consumers.

Our average cost is around \$3,000 a project. We do typically have about one project a year that is a little pricier. Some things run \$6,000. We try to keep under \$5,000. Some things we are able to do for under \$1,000, so that -- but that keeps our average right around \$3,000, both in 2016 and 2017.

On average, our individuals have lived in their home, respectively, 21 years and 15 years in 2016 and 2017. And for us, we're really just trying to maintain that -- support that individual living in their home. A majority of our people are -- are single, are women, and living alone. Of course, we serve everyone. We serve married couples or people living in families. We -- like we served 20 women and 13 men in 2016, but our majority is single women. We -- averaged -- in 2016, 17 African American, 16 Caucasian households, and in 2017, 20 Caucasian, 10 African American, 1 Asian, 2 Mixed Race. So, you know, we're hitting a fairly good demographic in the community. We're working all over the City.

In the past, we have done more, like, in First Ward, where the housing stock is older. We still do a number of projects there, but we really are all over the community. And I would just like to say that because of our other programs, we are also often able to help an individual, you know, a little further than the block grant funding.

We get in there and we see needs. We are able to pull in a volunteer. We're able to pull in some durable medical equipment. We are able to get them some other services in their home. I know that's not what you guys are doing, but -- but we're not there with a tunnel vision. We're there to help an individual -- as I like to say, live as fully as possible.

And sometimes living fully is being able to safely get from their bedroom to the front door and out to their driveway. You know, sometimes it means a little bit more.

We're really proud of the work we do. We have great contractors. We -- we like to leave people satisfied. We include them in the process. I'm sorry I don't have any quotes with me tonight, you know, but we recently worked with a woman whose -- whose house is not great. She has lived there for a very long time. Her house is not great, and she knows it. And she just needed the raccoons out of her attic, and some other little things done.

And we were able to do that for her. She's like, I don't -- I don't expect my house to be a palace, I just want to live here as long as possible. And I think we spent -- we spent \$3,000 on that project, and she was thrilled. Yeah. We also got her some other equipment and some other things, but, you know --

MR. FLETCHER: So -- all right.

MR. MERRY: Yeah.

MR. FLETCHER: Well, thank you. And so, we'll go around. Does anyone -- any of the Commissioners have questions for Scout?

MR. SALANSKI: So the microphone fell. I don't know if that will matter. Not that my voice doesn't carry. Scout, this isn't really a question per se -- Michael Salanski, Fifth Ward, but it is something that I want to recognize, and I think all the Commissioners, perhaps, I would urge you to recognize as well.

The folks that are in this room tonight in January didn't have to be here. We all know, especially from my experience last year, that we have a lot of folks that tend to show up when conveniently we are having to really make our decisions, allocate funds and resources appropriately, which we, of course, always have limited funds to do and a great need.

I think there is something to be said for Scout and the other folks that are here, and I

think we should remember that a little bit and perhaps hold a little bit more weight as we are making tougher decisions in the remainder of the year because it's -- it really shows me the continued effort in what you all do and how important it is to you to start off the year on the right foot and to really see it through. And so, I recognize that.

MR. MERRY: Thank you.

MR. SALANSKI: And I hope that the other Commissioners, when it comes time for us to take that into consideration, we'll recognize that later in the year.

MR. MERRY: Yeah.

MR. SALANSKI: So that's all.

MR. MERRY: Thank you.

MR. FLETCHER: Yeah. I second that. Blaine, you got anything?

MR. REGAN: I'm good.

MR. FLETCHER: I guess my question is from -- so just from a need standpoint --

MR. MERRY: Uh-huh.

MR. FLETCHER: -- and we recognize the need now that you fulfill that we fund, you see -- and you talked about wraparound services that you help with, but is there anything else? Is there something new you're seeing in the community that is missing from the things that we consider?

MR. MERRY: You know, the only thing that I've seen that's been different is -- is that in the past, we've always said we do not do emergency service. You know, it's a process that we go through to do a project. We have had community members that - you know, because we do have some wraparound services, they rely on us for some things.

And we -- we -- and, you know, this is also recent with our very cold weather. We had a pipe break for somebody that we had done a project for, and we know the approval process was there, and we, you know, for better or for worse have been able to do a couple of kind of emergency repairs for folks that in this really cold weather kind of felt like life savers.

And, you know, I don't expect that to be a common occurrence because everything has to -- all the ducks kind of have to already be in a row, but it was -- it was really nice to be able to just say, yes, we can -- we can get your furnace back on, we can help you get your furnace back on, and we can get your water moving again. We can help make this happen. And like I said, that -- it's a little bit different, but I don't expect it to be very much of an ongoing emergency service.

MR. FLETCHER: Now, do we -- we have funding stream for that though? Don't we have emergency home repair?

MR. COLE: So we have the Minor Home Repair program that we operate.

MR. FLETCHER: Right.

MR. COLE: And we will take care of some emergency-type items, like if someone has a sewer backup or something to that extent. But as far as moving, like within 24 hours, just the nature of the funding and all the requirements --

MR. FLETCHER: It's not that doable.

MR. COLE: Yeah.

MR. MERRY: Yeah. It just -- it doesn't happen that way in general.

MR. COLE: HUD requires us to do a historic preservation review --

MR. FLETCHER: Right.

MR. MERRY: Right.

MR. FLETCHER: Yeah. Unfortunately, it sounds like maybe we're not able to do that because of the requirements that are placed on our budget.

MR. MERRY: Right. And this is only for folks who already have had that historical preservation review done with us. That's actually good for five years. I -- I don't really want to get into too much emergency service because we like to be able to plan out our projects, but when it comes to some dire situations, it -- it has been kind of nice to -- to be able to move a little quicker.

MR. FLETCHER: What we appreciate as an organization, you step in and fill that gap. Pam, do you have any questions?

MS. FORBES: No.

MR. RITTER: No.

MR. WHATLEY: Just one question.

MR. MERRY: Yes.

MR. WHATLEY: How many projects do you -- or let me think about this. What's your backlog --

MR. MERRY: Right now, we're --

MR. WHATLEY: -- or what's your project projection for 2018?

MR. MERRY: We expect to do as many or more projects as we have done in the past. We are working on about -- we just went through -- Chrissie and I meet every week. We went through -- we have about ten in the hopper right now, and as far as like how busy our contractors are, we -- we don't really like to have a whole lot more than that. Yeah. So actively -- we're actively working on eight to ten.

MR. WHATLEY: Okay.

MR. MERRY: Yeah.

MR. WHATLEY: Is there an average turnaround time for when you accept somebody and --

MR. MERRY: We tell people three months because we like to give historical review six weeks. Sometimes it takes a little longer; sometimes it goes a little faster. The historical review is -- is the longest piece until we get to contractors and how busy they are. When -- when good weather hits, we're -- we're trying to get on their schedules -- on their dance cards.

MR. WHATLEY: Right. It's tough. Yeah.

MR. MERRY: Right. Yeah.

MR. WHATLEY: Thank you.

MR. MERRY: Yeah.

MS. FORBES: I think it means a lot that you come.

MR. MERRY: We really like this program that we do. It takes a lot of time and energy. I'm just laughing about one of the projects I have right now. But, I mean, it means the world to folks to just be able to get in and out of their homes.

I can't tell you the bathroom project that we recently did, and there was a write-up, I think, in the Missourian about it. Yeah. He wanted to do this project -- the partner wanted to do this project for his wife. He just couldn't get it done.

I've been trying to do it for six years -- maybe only three. I might be doubly exaggerating. I've been wanting to do this project. They finally gave us the go ahead to help make an accessible bathroom, and she wanted -- I don't know if you saw that she wanted to get out of the nursing home for Christmas.

We got her out two days after Thanksgiving. Yeah. Just -- it's really good stuff. And it's all because you guys, you know, agree to fund us.

MR. FLETCHER: Yes. Thank you.

MR. MERRY: I will take my leave. Yeah. Thank you.

MR. FLETCHER: Next, ma'am?

MS. DICKSON: So my name is Erica Dickson. I'm with King's Kids AEO Services. And AEO stands for achievement, enrichment and opportunity, which is in alignment with the public school system. And so, King's Kids is a nonprofit organization. I started it in 2012.

And so, we have served up to 32 school age children at one time. My passion is definitely youth because I think it is a lot easier to build healthy habits than it is to try

and teach the replacement behaviors later on. And so, I started the program -- I always worked in childcare. I was a mother at 19.

And so, at that point it was like, you know, how do I spend adequate amount of time? I need to go get back in school and finish my degree. And so, I just recognized the need for that added support and how much time kids spend outside of their house than they spend inside of their house and how the need for affordable quality care is just completely necessary and has bigger effects than the household -- it just will definitely change a community if kids are able to get effective care.

And so, this is my younger one, of course as you see is tagging along with me. My older one, once he started school, I said well who works these hours? Most parents don't work the hours, of course, that school is in session, and so, -- then, you know, all the parent/teacher workdays and different things like that.

And so, we started as a before- and after-school program. When the start times of the schools changes, we went to after because there wasn't that much of a need. But then, of course, the parents still have to work on those parent/teacher workdays, and to produce stable incomes for homes, like, you know, the parents still need care. So we started full daycare on those days, and then we went into summer camps, and then we saw there was a need for parenting classes, so we started that.

During the summer camps, we were able to do things like with the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture with our families to teach them to kind of be self-sufficient, and have healthier eating habits. And so, really what I think -- because there's a lot of, you know, after-schoolers -- Adventure Club, you have Boys and Girls Club, which is a large corporation, but I think what has been of benefit with King's Kids is that we're able to serve the families in a smaller pocket, and do it's more of an intimate setting. And so, we were able to build those relationships with the families. I also serve as homeschool communicator at Alpha Hart, and so, you really see in the school system how the teachers need that added support, and the families need the added support, and so, you're able to do that. In serving a smaller number of kids, you become like a little family.

And so, they're able to be in a more structured -- just a loving, intimate setting. And you're able to have more of an affect with a smaller group of kids. And so, that is basically what we do. It's really -- like I said, really my passion and kind of all fits together being able to work in the school system and build relationships with the teachers and see what added support they need. And just -- just hopefully build strong members of the community is what we see -- what we see happening.

MR. FLETCHER: So generally, we do not -- the funding that we have is typically to support organizations like yours from a facility standpoint. So we would assist if you need facility upgrades. That would be the type of funding that we -- we could provide you with and not so much directly to support your active --

MR. COLE: Uh-huh. And we've met about it a couple of times --

MR. FLETCHER: Okay.

MR. COLE: -- so she's tracking down a facility as we speak.

MS. DICKSON: Yeah. So we are currently without space. We went through a transition. We were renting space in August, and they decided they wanted to start their own program, which is fair. But it was really -- you kind of when you have that break, you get a chance to say, okay, what is really setting me apart from the other organizations.

Even though you have that in your business plan, you have your projections, but you get to hear from your clientele what are they missing. And so, I have conversations with my parents -- teary conversations every week that, you know, this has affected my household financially, emotionally, and my kids have been affected academically, and they're just not thriving like they once were. And so, we are without space and trying to obtain spaces as soon as possible. So we do have a need for space.

MR. FLETCHER: Diane, do you have any questions?

MS. SUHLER: I was going to say the Human Services Commission funds programs very similar to the one that you are talking about, as does the County and United Way. So I would encourage you to apply for funding for your actual programs through them as well.

MS. DICKSON: Okay. Awesome. Thank you.

MS. SUHLER: Unfortunately, the Human Services, we just finished our funding for this cycle, but I believe the County is actually just starting theirs, so you could easily get into that loop.

MS. DICKSON: Awesome. Thank you.

MR. SALANSKI: A question I have is you mentioned you founded the not-for-profit in 2012; is that correct?

MS. DICKSON: So we officially became a not-for-profit organization in January of last year. So when we started --

MR. SALANSKI: Oh. So you --

MS. DICKSON: -- we started as for-profit. We just --

MR. SALANSKI: Did you mention 2012 at all?

MS. DICKSON: Yeah. So we opened our doors in 2012.

MR. SALANSKI: Okay.

MS. DICKSON: It started as a profit --

MR. SALANSKI: Okay.

MS. DICKSON: Yeah.

MR. SALANSKI: Okay.

MS. DICKSON: You didn't make that up.

MR. SALANSKI: Okay. I have a way of doing that, so I just wanted to make sure.

And so, since last year, you've participated with 32 children?

MS. DICKSON: So we've served 32 at one time. The space that we were in last was -- could be licensed for 16 because there's different ratios --

MR. SALANSKI: Sure.

MS. DICKSON: -- and, you know, once you go up to 20, you need two bathrooms, just different things. So there's certain -- the square footage, there's all -- there's a whole book of stuff that I pretty much have memorized. So it just -- it changes.

And so, we would like not to -- I would love to serve as many children as possible, but I think it's going to be most successful done in smaller intimate settings, not just stuffing a bunch of kids into one building for, I don't know, purposes of income -- or you are feeling like you are serving them in an effective way. But it's most effective, I think, when it's like an intimate homelike family setting. So I think 16 with -- you know, it could be two separate spaces, but no more than, I think, 16 with one, so you are able to -- because every child has individual needs, And so, you need to know those needs, and you need to know the family's needs.

And so, building relationships is key. And so, being able to do that in smaller pockets, from my experience -- I mean, even outside of my organization in the schools is what seems to be most effective. And just taking that holistic approach because you can do as much work as possible with a child, and then you send them back home to the same setting, so you want to be able to build relationships with the families and then try to create some change there. So just kind of tackling it around the board, if that makes sense.

MR. SALANSKI: Do you -- and to Mr. Fletcher's point, you know, I think part of us have a soft spot for the work that's being done, but then also we have to be cognizant of the funds and the resources which we have and how those actually get executed.

MS. DICKSON: Uh-huh.

MR. SALANSKI: So with regards to physical space, and you're wanting to kind of

get back to serving families as quickly as possible --

MS. DICKSON: Uh-huh.

MR. SALANSKI: -- do you have any places kind of on the docket this year that you're planning on --

MS DICKSON: Yes. So I've been researching and have been busy. So I have been looking -- I have a couple of spaces in mind. One seems to be a better option because it was already licensed as a facility, And so, when you go through the licensing process, there's the initial inspection -- you know, the health and sanitation and fire, and usually with -- you know, once you get the fire, that's installing the system, whether it be sprinkler systems, that is when it becomes costly. So if you can find a space that is already licensed, that's usually the most viable option. And so, I have found a space that is not occupied at the moment, but it is still licensed, and so, it still has all the fire and suppression system, and just different things like that.

MR. SALANSKI: All these spaces that you are looking at, would you be looking to rent from the owner or are there any spaces in which you could perhaps, assuming the funding was there, actually own the space?

MS. DICKSON: So I would love -- I would love to be able to own. I feel like that's why we went through the last transition because there is always the option that -- and a lot of times people see this and they're like, hey, you know, it's a good service and maybe it's something that we can, you know, produce an income off ourselves. And so, I think owning would -- would make us not have to go through a transition again because a transition for kids is just not good, you know. It's just the -- the continuity and consistency is -- is what's best for them. And so, I would prefer owning the space that I'm talking about that is licensed. They are willing to sell the space.

MR. SALANSKI: And I would have to defer to Randy to kind of educate me and the rest of the Commissioners on this, but I would have some initial concern -- I would almost encourage you to -- to seek out space in which you could own --

MS. DICKSON: Uh-huh.

MR. SALANSKI: -- as opposed to rent. Because, again, if you have a particular space that say needs some sort of improvement that we would be glad to assist in funding.

MS. DICKSON: Uh-huh.

MR. SALANSKI: My concern is I don't know that we would be able to fund a space

in which is just for rent --

MS. DICKSON: Uh-huh.

MR. SALANSKI: -- that hypothetically speaking in that same fiscal year or the year thereafter, you could find yourself out of.

MS. DICKSON: Right. Right.

MR. SALANSKI: And so, it would be serving an entirely different need potentially on who the new occupant was.

MR. COLE: So the City and HUD guidelines would allow us to fund her lease for two years. So as long as it's a new service or an expansion of an existing service, we can fund lease costs. So it is eligible, so it would be up to the Commission and the applicant to figure out what's the best fit, whether it is renting or buying.

In this case with how long the timing goes -- so if she applies, you know, in April and the funds don't come available until the following August or September, she's probably going to have to do some form of rent to own to be able to secure a place for that far because I don't think you could do a purchase option for 16 months. That would be a pretty unique property manager/owner.

So probably will have to do a combination somehow, but I would think everybody would also agree that owning is always a little bit more ideal for long term stability. But it would be eligible to fund a lease.

MR. SALANSKI: The last question I had --

MS. DICKSON: No, you're good. I love to talking about this stuff. I could talk all night.

MR. SALANSKI: -- and I'll yield the floor. So you mentioned, you know, you had worked with 32 different children and their families, respectfully [sic], say you are to find your space tomorrow and just -- the stars aligned and you're ready to kind of set up shop again. And I value the intimacy. I think it is important that you don't just house as many children as possible and create a safe space that you can essentially connect with them and their families to hopefully make some difference along the long-term path.

But I guess my question is if the stars were to align and you were to have a space tomorrow, either how many families had you worked with in the past would seek out your services again and/or how many families do you kind of have that you've said, hey, this is something I'm trying for, continue to buy time, and then they'll plan on needing your services?

MS. DICKSON: So I --

MR. SALANSKI: So existing versus new.

MS. DICKSON: Right. And I ended with 16 because the ratio is 16 to 1. So the space that we're in, like I said, it will allow for 20, but it doesn't make sense to hire one staff member for four more children, so we stopped at the 16.

But I've kept in -- we meet once a month, just to kind of keep -- you know, whether we did the pumpkin patch or different activities. And so, all of my families, believe it or not, are ready to come back. They're like, you know, Is it -- are you definitely going to be open by this summer?

I have one mom that is on a cafeteria plan and she was, like, can I go ahead and fill it out? Do you know what I mean? Like, are you going to be -- and I said, you, know, I pray that we are. And so, all of my families that I've kept in touch with, you know, from what I understand, will be back and are waiting to -- to come back.

MR. SALANSKI: Thanks for coming out.

MS. FORBES: I have a question.

MS. DICKSON: Oh, yes. Hold on one second.

MS. FORBES: Where are you located now?

MS. DICKSON: We're without space right now.

MS. FORBES: Oh, you haven't --

MS. DICKSON: Yeah. We're without space right now. So we were renting, you know, and I --

MS. FORBES: So you're just -- you're not operating the program at all?

MS. DICKSON: No. We meet. We have meetings once a month. We meet up -- you know, my families, and we'll get together and meet just to kind of keep the relationship going and to check in and see what is going on. But it has taken a big toll.

The kids are kind of, you know, some of them falling back academically. I have some that are struggling socially. We do serve a couple of kids that are special needs, so, of course, one of the kids I serve, he is nonverbal. And so, I could imagine, you know, as a mom, like, you know, I have a place that I can trust and it's not there.

And, you know, I have to -- you know, it makes me get teary, but, yeah. So they're waiting, but we are without space right now. We do check in with each other at least once a month. We chat, and like I said, we built a relationship that's pretty neat. It's like we're a family.

And so, we're able to -- we've built those relationships. So we meet up physically,

but we check in with each other. We may talk during the week, and, you know, just kind of -- kind of keep the relationship going and keep the momentum going, you know.

MR. FLETCHER: All right. Any other questions?

MR. REGAN: I have one question.

MS. DICKSON: Yes.

MR. REGAN: Have you secured any other funds, like towards the capital campaign or is this kind of your first?

MS. DICKSON: This is my first. I have -- so when I did my original business plan, I did go through CMCA's program because, you know, being a young mom, I wasn't like a person that can go into a bank and get a business loan and things like that. And so, I did go through their programming. They, you know, have said that that would be an option, but that is -- that is a loan. And so, -- but -- and I think there is a limited amount on that. And so, we do do that.

The kids -- the parents do pay tuition. It's licensed, so it's State -- you do get tuition from the State as well. And so, the State sets their co-pay. And so, if a parent qualifies for State funding, their co-pay could -- based on their income could be anywhere from zero dollars a day to five dollars a day. And so, they do supplement some.

Another thing that childcare center -- licensed ones are -- are eligible for is the USDA funding. And so that covers, like, food cost. So there is something coming in besides the grant money on the -- you know, that would cover the other expenses.

MR. REGAN: Thank you. That's it for me.

MR. FLETCHER: All right. Thank you.

MS. DICKSON: Okay.

MR. FLETCHER: And I'll volunteer, you've already been talking with Randy --

MS. DICKSON: Yes.

MR. FLETCHER: -- and certainly, he's an awesome resource. And his door is always open.

MS. DICKSON: Okay.

MR. COLE: We're meeting Friday afternoon, actually.

MR. FLETCHER: Well, good.

MS. DICKSON: Yes. Yes.

MR. FLETCHER: I would definitely encourage that.

MR. COLE: Yeah.

MR. HUFFINGTON: Hi. My name is Gabe Huffington. I'm the parks services manager for Columbia Parks and Recreation. My job entails all the maintenance of parks, but also the project planning and construction for our parks department. And we have an opportunity at Worley Street Park in a couple of years, and so this is actually not an FY19 project, this is one that we would like for you to consider in FY2020.

But as Randy and I kind of talked about, Parks was actually not included in that five-year plan, so that's kind of where we have to talk about a longer range project in terms of changing some language if it was to be considered. But what we would like to do is just kind of introduce the project and let you guys all kind of listen and hear about it in what we have in terms of what we would like to do at the park, and then we can go forward with some questions and answers, and then, obviously, next year, our hope would be is that we've got some things in line and we can come back and talk about it a little bit more.

But at Worley Street Park, as part of the 2015 Park Sales Tax Renewal, we included a project for the park. The park is one of our older parks in Columbia, situated in the First Ward, serves a lot of the community directly around it, partly because Providence is always considered that break to Douglass Park, and so, Worley Street Park captures a lot of those neighborhoods within that half-mile radius.

We have \$70,000 in Park Sales Tax funding for FY2020 for the project. And as we start to look at everything we would like to do in a park, we started to look at everything that we need. And Worley Street Park has two different playground structures -- and I'll kind of go through that here in a minute.

Park lighting is something we always address in any park project, and part of that is the move to be more energy efficient, so we go to LED lighting. Also, there's a much better aspect in terms of safety when we can improve that lighting. And then, also -- so a one-table picnic shelter. Right now, there is no shelter at Worley Street Park, so shaded space to eat lunch is not available.

We've got some space with some tables, but nothing in terms of an actual shelter.

We'll always look at ADA walkway improvements for any project that we do, and so, at Worley Street Park, we'll look at that as well. And then we'll also replace basketball goals that have been there for a long time. When we started to look at all of our projects, we're looking at right around \$120,000 in capital improvements to the project. And so, we start to look at, okay, what are some other source options that we can use or might be available to us as we start to look at a project, whether it

is a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant or -- we have not been to CDBG in quite a while in terms of grant funding for a project.

And so, I wanted to kind of talk to everyone tonight and just kind of put this on the radar in terms of the project. Why it is also significant as well is if you're familiar with the City's strategic plan, we have three key areas that we are serving. One of those we consider to be in the Central area, but Worley Street Park is actually just outside of that. So it is not inside that barrier, and so there is a big emphasis in the City. Some of our projects and how we fund them, and then Park Sales Tax and things that we improve -- so when you look at Downtown Optimist Park, which is kind of adjacent to this park,

VI. REPORTS

FY 2019 Community Development Needs Survey

MR. COLE: All right. So the Community Development Need Survey has been posted and sent out. Are most of you on the Community ListServ -- the Community Development ListServ? Have you seen the email? Well, it got sent out yesterday or the day before.

But I'll send the link out to everybody because I know you all are very interested in sending it out to your circles. But it is on the City's website here that you can go to. So, yeah, it's up.

MR. WHATLEY: What is that ListServ that you mentioned, Randy?

MR. COLE: It's the Community Development Department ListServ. If anyone is not on it and would like to be on there, you get updates around not only what we're doing, but also like ONS or Planning and other events.

MR. WHATLEY: Is that something you can add us to?

MR. COLE: Yeah. I could certainly do that.

MR. WHATLEY: If you would add me to that, that would be great.

MR. COLE: Okay.

MR. SALANSKI: Yeah. I think --

MR. COLE: Yeah. I would be happy to do that. I'll do that and send the link out to everybody so you have access to it. But, yeah, we're already getting surveys. If you would like, if you've got time, I could pull up and see how many are in there as of now, if you've got time.

All right. It's still loading. There we go. All right. It looks like we're up to 31 so far, so off to a good start. So, yeah, I'll share this with everybody else, and --

MR. RITTER: Ward Two dominates.

MS. FORBES: I've got 12 percent.

MR. WHATLEY: That's all right. Ward Four is getting ready to take over.

MR. COLE: Yeah. Ward Four had like 42 percent last year. So, yeah, I'll share this and--

MR. SALANSKI: Do you recall, just out of curiosity, if Ward Five had any representation?

MR. COLE: Last year?

MR. SALANSKI: Yeah.

MR. COLE: We had pretty decent. I can look it up real quick if you want to know.

MR. SALANSKI: I'm sorry.

MR. WHATLEY: Yeah. Michael, I think that --

MR. SALANSKI: I'm seeing such a poor performance, I'm seeing if I can --

MR. COLE: Well, it's up to you to make that happen.

MR. WHATLEY: The next door group in -- that I'm in, I think it serves Ward Four and Five, so it's not just Ward Four.

MR. SALANSKI: Oh, fantastic. I can just rely on you then. Perfect.

MR. COLE: I think I --

MR. WHATLEY: You take care of Craigslist.

MR. SALANSKI: Yeah. You said it was like 31, Randy, so far?

MR. COLE: Yeah. Thirty-one.

MR. SALANSKI: And the goal for this year was at 400?

MR. COLE: We want to get to 400 --

MR. SALANSKI: Yeah.

MR. COLE: -- to beat last year significantly. So it looks like Ward Five had 32 respondents, 8.5 percent. You're at 6.5 with two respondents this year. Yeah. We usually do get a lot from the First Ward. We usually set up shop over at Oak Tower, Centro Latino, some other non-profits there. That helps boost the numbers.

MR. SALANSKI: Did you find based upon the percent of responses to the survey almost directly correlates to where the Commission -- obviously, there is a greater need in particular wards than other wards. But is it almost -- it is almost -- do you find it to almost correlate, say, if it's Ward One, 60 percent of the responses, ironically similar funding amounts are going to that particular ward?

MR. COLE: So I guess you're asking the interest level in CDBG, do you get more responses for wards that get more CDBG funds; is that what you're asking?

MR. SALANSKI: Yeah.

MR. COLE: Last year, I would say no, because it got skewed a lot by Paul getting a lot of the Fourth Ward in.

MR. SALANSKI: Oh.

MR. WHATLEY: By the way that I, you know, kind of introduced the emails, you know -- you know, I'm your Ward Four representative, and I would just love to know what your input in is and where the needs are greatest to you if we were to spend this money. You know, that's kind of the approach that I had, and hopefully everybody thought in that manner, like, if we had x amount of money and this was a choice, you know, what is your priority? You know, what would you like to see done?

MR. COLE: And we usually do get a very strong response in the First Ward, and that's where a lot of our money goes. But we do -- money does go Citywide, so we give money that goes to the Fifth Ward on Rehabs or other projects or even some of the Jeff Smith projects that are down there. But, yeah, a lot -- a lot of funds go into the First Ward.

MR. FLETCHER: All right.

MS. FORBES: When does your data collection end?

MR. COLE: I was going to have it open through the end of May because you guys won't need it really until the June meeting. I always like to leave it open as long as possible.

MR. FLETCHER: Sure. So the task for us is just to make sure that we get the news out to everybody in their individual wards --

MR. COLE: Yeah.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and Fair Housing Task Force

MR. FLETCHER: -- and get as many inputs as possible. Next up is the task force.

MR. COLE: So I mentioned this at the last meeting -- or I mentioned -- I did a fairly thorough overview at the last meeting, but I just wanted to provide an update that I presented it to Council at the December 18th meeting, and they were very receptive to the idea. I had three different Council members that were all -- spoke supportive of it -- of doing a Task Force for Fair Housing.

And I'm getting a lot of good input from people in the neighborhoods that are interested, particularly people in the First Ward area that, you know, see preserving their neighborhood is a very important thing, and the Affordable Housing, so I think we'll have a lot of interest in it, and I think it will be a really good thing to do that will have good results for our next five year strategic plan.

So I included just a summary of what the purpose of the group would be, just to make sure folks understand. So, one, would be assisting us in our engagement process and conducting outreach, so getting people involved. So we'll do, like four public meetings on different topics, be it from segregation to access to opportunity in your neighborhoods to affordable housing and quality of housing, but helping us do those events and engage the community.

The second one would be to analyze the data that staff presents, as well as data presented by our local partners. And then review more qualitative data that's received through the public engagement process. And then, provide recommendations to Council for Fair Housing goals and priorities.

So the idea would be we would have some goals that would feed into the Consolidated Plan, and then also any kind of policy recommendations. So that's -- that's kind of that one in a nutshell.

MR. SALANSKI: And remind me, Pamela, are you First Ward?

MS. FORBES: Yeah.

MR. SALANSKI: Okay.

MS. FORBES: I live -- I live a block from the Worley Street Park.

MR. SALANSKI: Do you? Okay.

MS. FORBES: That's why I was asking him how they tabulated the usage of it. I was just curious because I very seldom see anybody down there. But, you know, I don't go -- I haven't been looking. I'm going to start looking and see just what kind of usage are we getting here. I know that a block away at the Baptist church -- Calvary Baptist Church there, they have a lot of kids.

MR. RITTER: Well, what park is that?

MS. FORBES: Park?

MR. RITTER: What park is that that's next to Calvary Baptist? Is that Worley Street?

MS. FORBES: Yeah.

MR. WHATLEY: That's Worley Street, yes.

MR. RITTER: Oh, okay.

MS. FORBES: Worley Street Park. But Calvary -- the Baptist church there has like -- like they give away backpacks at school time, and they -- all kinds of stuff goes on in that location.

MR. SALANSKI: Randy, had you heard anything more -- I think there was a suggestion made the last time we all -- we all kind of got together. You had

mentioned which Council people was going to essentially volunteer their efforts with regards to this particular task force.

Have there been any more conversation with the -- Clyde -- Mr. Ruffin regarding his interest in either volunteering or serving on the task force in some way being that he's First Ward, and there's such a --

MR. COLE: Not from me, but he was at the Council meeting where I presented, and I don't know that the people -- or the Council persons that expressed interest in this, they didn't definitively say they were going to volunteer for it. I want to make sure we get some Council volunteers.

MR. SALANSKI: And I guess that was going to be my suggestion to -- you know, to you, Pamela, not trying to put something on your to-do list, but to reach out to Clyde, you know, and explain -- I'm sure Clyde is -- knows who you are. But I -- I mean, if I were to live in the First Ward, and with how many -- how many projects are going on in the First Ward, and has gone on in the First Ward, and the amount of dollars that go into the First Ward --

MS. FORBES: We should have more participation.

MR. SALANSKI: I would be a little hard pressed if my representative didn't -- didn't find interest in serving on such a task force that's really geared for his constituents is all. I'm not trying to put his hand to the fire, but I would love to see him there because I think he would be able to provide a unique position then to the rest of the Council, you know, from that vantage point.

MS. FORBES: All right.

MR. COLE: As a City staffer, I would be pleased with any of them that --

MR. SALANSKI: Yeah.

MS. FORBES: Yeah.

MS. SUHLER: Yeah. Who were the three that expressed interest, Randy?

MR. COLE: What's that?

MS. SUHLER: Who were the three that expressed interest?

MR. COLE: Ian had questions at the Council meeting, and so did Councilman Trapp. But then also, Skala had some positive comments at the meeting and seemed interested and engaged. And Clyde didn't have any questions, but he seemed very engaged in my presentation. So I think -- I think at least four of them were, you know, very attentive to what was going on, so hopefully, of those, we'll get two that will volunteer.

MS. SUHLER: How large of a task force are you looking at?

MR. COLE: What's that?

MS. SUHLER: How large of a task force are --

MR. COLE: I had fifteen people listed on there -- or not people, but positions. And then, they -- the people would come and then the Council would approve that. I am taking a resolution back to the Council in February, so I'll probably take it back the first meeting in February, which would give us time in case they wanted to make changes or wanted to, you know, put it off until the next meeting because they wanted something different. And then in March, we would collect people to be on it and start it in April.

MR. SALANSKI: And, remind me, Randy, did you allocate for, what, one person, essentially our Commission to be ideal --

MR. COLE: Uh-huh.

MR. SALANSKI: -- to serve on the task force?

MR. COLE: Yeah.

MR. SALANSKI: I think I would just kind of extend for all of the Commissioners to kind of think between this meeting and next, since March is going to be right around the corner, to see if any of you would -- would have the time and interest in -- in serving. And if there's only -- if there's none, then we can, of course, have Fletcher do it. I'm kidding.

But if there's a few, maybe we can kind of --

MR. FLETCHER: I'll appoint someone.

MR. SALANSKI: Yeah, right. We can come to some logical conclusion as to, you know --

MR. COLE: Uh-huh. One thing that I've been thinking could be very advantageous, and I reached out to Diane, is if she was on there, that then you could also have an additional person from our Commission because she has -- she's our Human Services liaison. So you get someone from the Human Services Commission that also understands what we do, and an additional person from this Commission, which would -- I think that would be very appropriate given this Board's role.

MS. FORBES: How much time are we talking?

MR. COLE: Eight task force meetings and four public engagement meetings --

MS. FORBES: And what --

MR. COLE: -- over a year.

MS. FORBES: In a year?

MR. COLE: Uh-huh. So, folks, you should think about it, and then we'll revisit in

March once the Council approves the resolution and says, yes, go for it. Then we'll collect the people.

CDBG and HOME Council Policy Resolution

Attachments: [Council Policy Resolution](#)

MR. FLETCHER: Next is the funding policy resolution.

MR. COLE: Yeah. We've got a few new Commissioners. So this is the actual Council Policy Funding Resolution. So this is really the stated and agreed to policy of our City Council and how we fund CDBG and HOME funding.

So it's really important that Commissioners familiarize themselves with this. Basically, the first couple of sections break out what our percentages are for the different categories we fund under CDBG, be it Affordable Housing, Neighborhood Needs -- really that's kind of our infrastructure projects, Economic Development, Fair Housing and Community Facilities and those percent ranges. The mid-point of those ranges correlate to the number of goals and associated values to do a per unit cost of that goal.

So each year, of course, we fluctuate, you know, within those percentages by category, depending on the strength of applications we get, the amount of funds, and then survey feedback, and then, you know, just you guys going through the process. And then the -- section three covers the HOME funds and kind of how -- how those funds are expended and allocated.

I would point your attention as we -- it's good to know, particularly if you are a new Commissioner, I think there is a common question of, you know, can we go outside the funding percentages. And, yes, you can in the stated policy. And there's four reasons to do that, and it's on the back of the second page.

You know, if we are disproportionally meeting a Five Year Consolidated Plan goal, such as if our goal is to do five sidewalks and we're in year three and we've already done five, you know, we'll not fund anything in that category. That would be an example. Or if there is a unique project that can only be done if we go to a large funding amount for that category -- and I think we pushed that limit when we funded Welcome Home that one year, so that would be an example.

Or when no funding requests are submitted within a specific category. We haven't had that issue. We've always had something in each category. And the final one, if we don't just get a viable proposal within that category. We don't want to force ourselves into funding something that's not a good project, just based on percentages that we want to meet.

So that's it in a nutshell. We'll certainly want to relook at this whole thing as we go into our next Consolidated Plan process, but you guys are always welcome to recommend any amendments that you might -- think might be necessary for this final Consolidated Plan year.

MR. FLETCHER: So obviously everybody has looked at it for tonight, but do we -- what's on the agenda for next month? Do we have time to carry this forward --

MR. COLE: Yeah. We can do that.

MR. FLETCHER: -- and give everybody time to review this now --

MR. COLE: Yeah. We've got plenty of time.

MR. FLETCHER: -- after they've had an explanation. And so, I'd ask, especially for the newer members, to review this and bring any comments or questions back for the next meeting given our time tonight, since it's running a little long with the public presentations.

VII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

MR. FLETCHER: Is there any other comments?

MR. COLE: Can I make a couple comments?

MR. FLETCHER: Yeah.

MR. COLE: First, I want to thank everybody for how engaged you are and how serious you take the public hearing. I think that's awesome, and I think that's great. That's the whole point of this Commission, so thank you.

Secondly, I have an extra diversity breakfast ticket, if anybody who wants to go that doesn't already have a table, I have one. Pam's grabbed one.

MR. SALANSKI: How diverse is it? I mean, are we talking like biscuits and gravy?

MR. COLE: It's kind of a --

MR. FLETCHER: Steak and eggs.

MR. COLE: It's kind of those eggs. It's usually pretty good.

MS. FORBES: There will be fruit.

MR. REGAN: What day is this?

MR. COLE: It's tomorrow morning.

MR. RITTER: Tomorrow morning.

MR. COLE: I have an extra ticket.

MR. SALANSKI: It's actually tonight at midnight.

MR. COLE: Yeah. It's from 7:00 to 9:00, so I just had an extra ticket --

MS. FORBES: And we're with --

MR. COLE: -- so I thought I would throw that in.

MS. FORBES: And we're sitting with who?

MR. COLE: The Columbia Community Land Trust Board bought a table. And we just have a couple of extra seats, so you guys seemed like a logical group to offer it out to if anybody is available. MR. SALANSKI: Had I had more time, I would have been interested.

MR. COLE: Okay.

MS. FORBES: I just found out about it today before I walked in here.

MS. SUHLER: Thank you for the offer. I already have a ticket.

MR. COLE: Okay. Very good.

MS. SUHLER: Okay.

MR. COLE: I'll just eat two plates.

MR. SALANSKI: Or you can bring -- you can just bag it and bring it to me. I'll be hungry at 9:00, I'm sure.

MS. SUHLER: I just hope they don't have pork. That's often a problem.

MR. COLE: Oh, yeah.

MS. SUHLER: It's a diversity breakfast, and they get a lot of, you know, interracial, interdenominational, and then they often will have pork -- you know, ham or bacon or something. And so it's -- so hopefully, there won't be any pork.

MR. COLE: Yeah, hopefully so. I think I remember turkey bacon. They might have switched to it --

MS. SUHLER: That's right. I think -- yeah.

MR. COLE: -- to be more sensitive to that. Hopefully, that maintains. All right. Any other comments or questions?

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

MR. FLETCHER: So our next meeting date is February 7, so please mark that on the calendar.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MR. FLETCHER: And the last agenda item is adjournment. I need a motion to adjourn.

MS. FORBES: I move we adjourn.

MR. Ritter: Second.

MR. FLETCHER: All in favor?

(Unanimous voice vote for approval.)