

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

April 21, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting through Microsoft Teams)

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Stephanie Sackett-Converse.

ATTENDANCE:

HSAB members in attendance: Barbara Braun, Stephanie Sackett-Converse, Linda Rabb, Ruth Apahidean Harper, and staff liaison Maureen Burwell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

BRAUN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 19, 2020 MEETING MINUTES. RABB SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Elisha Smith-Marshall, Plateau Outreach Ministries

Elisha gave an overview of the work of Plateau Outreach Ministries (POM). She has been with the non-profit organization for six years, first as Administrative Assistant, then Program Manager and now as Executive Director. She detailed how POM has had to adjust their services due to Covid-19:

- Pre-packing food each week for Food Bank clients and having them pick up in the alleyway. Prior to Covid-19 they were able to shop in the facility and choose from different options of grocery items.
- Case management is being done Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays via telephone.
- Many of the volunteers are in age groups vulnerable to Covid-19 so staff members have more duties and responsibilities.
- Rental assistance and utility vouchers have increased.

She noted that donations from the community increased during the pandemic, which has helped greatly with the emergency financial assistance. POM does not give cash to their clients, instead they pay the landlord, the utility company, or the supplier of medications, etc. (there is no assistance for narcotic medication).

Stephanie thanked Elisha for presenting and noted that it is good to hear how the community has stepped up by giving more support than in previous years. Elisha concurred and noted that, while some things have been difficult, they have seen many good things throughout the year.

In response to Stephanie's inquiry, Elisha stated that volunteers are needed for the Pennies from Heaven Thrift Store and the food bank. The website (plateauoutreach.org) updates food bank needs and the thrift store accepts donations two times a month at the lower level of Calvary Presbyterian Church. The next donation time is Friday, April 23, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2021 Budget – Final Approved Funding for Human Service Agencies

Stephanie reviewed the funding for the agencies that applied for 2021 City funding. She explained the process to Ruth:

- The agencies submit applications in early August.
- Maureen will send out a packet of the applications to all HSAB members.
- Discussion at the August meeting and either make recommendations then on which agencies to fund and for what amount; or meet in September to finalize recommendations.
- HSAB recommendations are transmitted to the Mayor who will either modify or place as recommended in his proposed budget. City Council is the final authority on passage of the complete City budget, and they can make amendments to the Mayor's budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Reappointment: Barbara Braun

2. New Appointment: Ruth Harper

Stephanie mentioned Barbara's reappointment; and Ruth's appointment welcoming her to the Board. Ruth commented that she has benefitted from community services in the past. She has lived in the community for three years and desires to give back.

3. Next Meeting: August 18, 5:00 p.m.

Stephanie requested that all members read the materials that will be sent out early and come to this meeting ready to ask questions and possibly make recommendations. She remarked that this community has been phenomenal in helping during a pandemic and particularly appreciated the Mayor doing what he could, such as the "Clips for a Cause" raising money to support both POM and Rainier Foothills Wellness Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT:

BRAUN MOVED TO ADJOURN. APAHIDEAN HARPER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen J. Burwell

Staff Liaison

Date Minutes Approved: _____