

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES**  
**January 19, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting – Microsoft Teams & In-person at City Hall**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ATTENDANCE:**

Via Microsoft Teams video-conferencing: Stephanie Sackett-Converse, Ruth Apahidean Harper, and Councilmember Anthony Wright

In-person: Helen Boisjolie, Linda Rabb, and staff liaison Maureen Burwell

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**BOISJOLIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 18, 2021, MEETING MINUTES. RABB SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Final budget appropriations for human service funding  
Sackett-Converse referred to the chart in the packet and noted that Plateau Kids Network funding was added late; the HSAB did not review this application as their recommendation to the Mayor was complete prior to that time.

**PRESENTATION and Q & A:**

1. Anthony Wright, Councilmember

Wright's comments included:

- Plateau Outreach Ministries (POM) and Rainier Foothills Wellness Foundation (RWF) were allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, so there was no need for them to formally apply for General Fund money this year.
- Mayor Jan Molinaro seeks to be inclusive with all Councilmembers; and meets with them on a one-on-one basis prior to the budget season. Human services funding is discussed, usually after the HSAB has made their recommendations to the Mayor.
- The most discussion and "back-and-forth" is regarding decisions on outside agency funding. Many Councilmembers have agencies that they strongly support.
- Food security is important to Council and they support such things as the Farmer's Market getting into the SNAP program, more than they would business aspects of a non-profit. They might designate funds to help with initial marketing and set-up, but then expect groups to fundraise separately for those items eventually.
- POM is always easy to support because of the model they use. There is accountability built into the program. They have a long history of cooperation with the City to get human services needs met.

- RFWF's programs are also well run; the Foundation handles the allocation received from the City responsibly. They now have a mental health program that provides counseling services in both middle schools and the Enumclaw High School.
- Affordability for senior housing is particularly important to Wright. There is a two-year to three-year waiting list for seniors trying to get into lower-income housing in the Enumclaw area.
- The Enumclaw Food Bank may be merging with POM who also runs a food bank. Details are being worked out now and he is unsure if they will continue to apply separately for funds or add that to POM's request.
- The Council was not pleased with the handling of City funds by the YMCA during Covid-19 protocols in 2020. The main purpose for the funding was a staff member who was to take at-risk youth (from Enumclaw) on outings such as snow-shoeing, hiking and other outdoor excursions. When the shut-downs occurred, YMCA re-assigned this individual to the other areas of the organization and did not have a presence in Enumclaw. He noted that many other organizations pivoted their programming and were able to do many things on a virtual basis and other creative strategies. It was for this reason that funding was removed for 2021 and 2022. Although, they are still given the use of the building rent-free with IT support from the City.

Wright also noted that discussions on capital improvements will be held by Council. The Senior Center is in need of either substantial repairs or a completely new facility. A large project of building a community center will need to be vetted and the community will have an opportunity to weigh in. The Senior Center would be housed there, but the youth model will need to be determined. The City's Parks & Rec Department does not have the resources to run a successful youth program which includes counseling and other services. They can best provide sports and recreation activities.

HSAB members asked various questions of Wright. The answers included:

- Wright conceded that the HSAB role may be a bit diminished with the Mayor making contact with Councilmembers individually. However, he encouraged the Board to be vocal with the Council; they can advocate for their recommendations at a Council meeting.
- The experience and expertise of the members of HSAB are invaluable; explanations of how a decision was made recommending funding would be helpful to the decision makers.
- Plateau Kids Network funding (\$6,000) was added at a Budget Workshop. They are not new to the area as they have been doing toy drives and providing "shopping" days for low-income parents at the Christmas holiday to select gifts for their children for years. However, they are now organizing as a 501(c)3 and launching a website to further the program. This seed money will help with that as they continue to fundraise independent of government for the bulk of their operation.
- HSAB may help with the accountability process by reviewing the reports that are part of the Council agenda packets and are provided with the applications during budget season. He also encouraged them to hold their Councilmembers accountable.

Individual Board members thanked Wright for the enlightening conversation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Reappointments: Stephanie Sackett-Converse and Helen Boisjolie  
Sackett-Converse noted the re-appointments.

2. Position #5 Vacant  
Sackett-Converse informed the Board that an application has been received by Julie Holbrook. The Mayor has interviewed her and will appoint, pending Council approval at their January 24, 2022, meeting.

3. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 20, 2022  
Sackett-Converse noted that she may have a conflict with that day and will know closer to the date.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Maureen J. Burwell

Staff Liaison

Date Minutes Approved: 5-11-22