



Housing and Community Development Advisory Board (HCDAB)

Meeting Minutes

Stephen Sparks – Chair
Stan Hosac – Vice Chair

Donna Bleyle
Susan Brenton
Haydee Dawson
Diana Yazzie Devine
Christian Karas

Heather Kay
Heather Landvatter
Linda Starr
Vacant

Thursday, January 9, 2014

5:00 p.m.

Lower-Level Council Chambers

57 E. 1st Street

Mesa, Arizona, 85201

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – The meeting convened at 5:01 p.m. The following members and staff were present at the meeting unless otherwise indicated:
 - A. HCDAB members present at meeting included: Stephen Sparks, Chair; Stan Hosac, Vice Chair; Donna Bleyle; Susan Brenton (arrived at 5:41 p.m.); Diana Yazzie Devine; Christian Karas; Heather Kay; Heather Landvatter; and, Linda Starr. Haydee Dawson was not present at the meeting, and one slot remained vacant.
 - B. Staff present at meeting included: Tammy Albright, Ray Thimesch, Rob Schweitzer, Constance Bachman, Deanna Grogan, and Scott Clapp.

II. Items from Citizens Present

Members of the audience may address the Board on any item. State statute prohibits the Housing and Community Development Advisory Board (HCDAB) from discussing an item that is not on the agenda; however, the Board does listen to your concerns and has staff follow up on any questions you raise.

There were no items from citizens present at this time.

- III. **Discussion Items: Human Services Program Proposal Review for FY 2014/15** – At this time, the Board heard and evaluated presentations from nonprofit organizations requesting funding from the City of Mesa’s FY 2014/15 Human Services Program. Each

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agency will presented for a maximum of three minutes per application, unless otherwise indicated, and the Board may have asked clarifying questions following their presentation.

A. The following applicants presented a brief overview of their application(s):

1. A New Leaf, Inc. Inc. requested \$25,000 for its Autumn House Domestic Violence Shelter Operations. Funds would support operations at Autumn House Domestic Violence Shelter, a refuge for domestic violence victims and their children in Mesa since 1983. **Board member Devine declared a conflict of interest.**
2. A New Leaf, Inc. requested \$32,500 for its *Housing Navigation Services Program*. Funds would assist families/individuals by assessing, arranging, coordinating and monitoring, the delivery of individualized services to facilitate housing stability and to overcome challenges that may threaten their stability. Targeted families would include those that have lived in independent permanent housing, and can generally remain stably housed with temporary, limited assistance. **Board member Devine declared a conflict of interest.**
3. A New Leaf, Inc. requested \$30,000 for its *La Mesita Family Homeless Shelter Program*. La Mesita family homeless shelter provides crises services to families in need. The program delivers basic needs, food and shelter, while focusing on overcoming the barriers to self-sufficiency that low-income families face, through on-site case management and referrals to community resources. **Board member Devine declared a conflict of interest.**
4. A New Leaf, Inc. requested \$150,000 for its *MesaCan Client Services Program*. MesaCAN's Client Services are designed to address an immediate financial crisis related to non-payment of rent, mortgage and/or utilities and therefore, reduce the immediate occurrence of eviction and utility disconnection. **Board member Devine declared a conflict of interest.**
5. A New Leaf, Inc. requested \$24,737 for its *MesaCan Family Support Services Program*. New service designed to assist City of Mesa Family Self-Sufficiency program participants and low-income/working poor families and individuals who are City of Mesa residents, by reducing or eliminating barriers to employment and establish financial stability by bridging a gap where other resources may not be readily available. **Board member Devine declared a conflict of interest.**
6. Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter, Mesa requested \$15,000 for its *Alzheimer's Disease Family Support Program*. The Alzheimer's Association Programs empower and support City of Mesa residents, who are coping with family members and friends with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia, by providing effective dementia care and support and developing appropriate support systems.

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7. American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter requested \$10,000 for its *Local Disaster Relief in Mesa Program*. Families and individuals in Mesa suffering loss due to natural or man-made disasters would have 24/7/365 access to immediate emergency relief, including direct financial assistance for food, clothing and temporary shelter; replacement of lost medical-related supplies; and emotional support, as well as follow-up casework and referrals.
8. Back to School Clothing Drive requested \$10,000 for its *New Clothes New Beginnings Program*. This program would provide new school uniforms or outfits, backpacks and school supplies to approximately 5,000 low-income K-6 grade children from Title I elementary schools in Maricopa County.
9. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona requested \$12,000 for its *Mesa Community-Based Mentoring Program*. This program provides mentoring services for 170 at-risk children in Mesa annually.
10. Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley, Grant Woods Branch-Mesa, requested \$25,000 for its *Academic Success/Mentoring Program*. Includes such programs as Project Learn, Power Hour Homework Help and BE GREAT: Graduate and SMART Moves.
11. Bridging AZ requested \$30,000 for its *Furniture for Families Program*. Bridging AZ will provide 100 units of furniture to qualified families. Units include: 2 beds, kitchen table with up to 6 chairs, sofa, dresser, 2 nightstands, and 2 lamps.
12. Child Crisis Center requested \$11,500 for its *Emergency Shelter Program*. Emergency Shelter Program provides children with safety, a healthy and nurturing environment, crisis services and time for the parent/caregiver to resolve the crisis and find more stable, permanent housing.
13. Christian Assistance Network-CAN requested \$7,000 for its *Utilities Assistance Program*. This program would provide 140 households with \$50 once per year for utility assistance.
14. Community Legal Services, Inc. requested \$41,500 for its *Mesa Tenants' Rights Helpline*. This program would provide a phone helpline for Mesa tenants and attorneys at no cost who will provide legal advise/counsel and direct representation in court. **Board member Brenton declared a conflict of interest.**
15. Community Legal Services, Inc. requested \$48,000 for its *Removing Barriers to Justice for Low-Income Mesa Residents Program*. Program provides attorneys and other legal advocates at no cost to resolve the civil legal problems of low-income Mesa residents, primarily with family and housing law. **Board member Brenton declared a conflict of interest.**

Scheduled Break – 10 minutes

16. East Valley Adult Resources (EVAR) requested \$27,000 for its *Assistance for Independent Living Volunteer Services Program*. **Board members Hosac, Sparks, and Starr declared a conflict of interest.**
17. East Valley Adult Resources (EVAR) requested \$24,000 for its *Meals on Wheels*. This program serves older and disabled adults by providing cost effective meals and daily contact. **Board members Hosac, Sparks, and Starr declared a conflict of interest.**
18. Fencing for All Foundation requested \$5,000 for *The Zorro Project*. This program would provide a unique after-school program to Title I youth to teach life and leadership skills; fencing is the vehicle used. Participants would gain self-confidence, analytical thinking skills, discipline, and self-control that contribute to academic success.
19. Hope Village Arizona requested \$10,000 for its *Hope Village Arizona Project*. Funds requested to support expansion of its supportive programming for foster children, adoptive families and active seniors in 2014-15. Hope Village adoptive parents agree to adopt two or more children from the Arizona foster care system, and active seniors agree to volunteer at least six hours a week serving as neighbors, tutors, baby-sitters, crossing guards, playground monitors, mentors, role models, and friends.
20. House of Refuge requested \$30,000 for its *Employment Services Program*. Funding requested to support Employment & Education Specialist (ESS) and Finance Specialist (FS) who provide critical support to residents in gaining their self-sufficiency.
21. Labor's Community Service Agency requested \$30,000 for its *Foreclosure Intervention Program*. Funds requested will provide 50 Mesa homeowners with the following activities: primary counseling, secondary default counseling, advocacy (negotiations with the lender), and arrearage assistance.
22. Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest requested \$27,000 for its *Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-Help)*. I-Help, in partnership with 10 host congregations and a multitude of other faith-based and community partners, provides shelter, food, basic health screening, and case management to homeless women without children. **Board member Sparks declared a conflict of interest.**
23. Marc Center requested \$29,500 for its *Employment Training (Center- and Community-Based) Program*. This program provides an opportunity for

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individuals who have reached their maximum potential in employment because of a severe disability to remain employed in subcontract work.

24. Mesa Family YMCA requested \$15,000 for its *First Offender's Program (FOP)*. This diversion program serving youth and teen first offenders provides eight hours of life skills training and education, anger management, decision making, juvenile law, problem solving, working with others, character and values, as well as the value of education. Its goal is to reduce the recidivism rate amongst first-time offenders.
25. Oakwood Creative Care requested \$30,000 for its *Therapies and Meals Program*. **Board member Brenton declared a conflict of interest.**
26. Save the Family requested \$135,000 for its *Homeless Families Intervention Project*. This program provides daily therapeutic programs and meals to engage the body/mind of Oakwood's long-term support patients experiencing Alzheimer's disease, other dementias, stroke, and other conditions of impairment.
27. Sojourner Center requested \$60,500 for its *Emergency Shelter and Supportive Services Program (Transitional Living and Family Enrichment)*. Program provides bed, food, and clothing for single women and women with children. Transitional services help women gain the skills necessary to obtain and sustain permanent housing and live independently as individuals and/or families.
28. Teen Lifeline requested \$15,000 for its *Crisis Hotline Program*. Teen Lifeline operates a 365 days per year free confidential hotline with supportive services to help with the development of coping skills as an alternative to suicide. It's the only peer-to-peer counseling hotline in Arizona.
29. United Food Bank (UFB) requested \$20,000 for its *Food Link Program*. This program supplements partner agencies to assist Mesa residents with various food assistance programs. **Board member Sparks declared a conflict of interest.**
30. West Mesa Community Development Corporation (WMCDC) requested \$20,000 for its *Mesa Neighborhood Academy Program*. This program would design and produce 3 neighborhood classes; provide one 6-class HOA Academy; provide training facilitation for 6 BSNs; and continued neighborhood mentoring to help build the internal capacity for neighborhoods already participating in an organized process.
31. West Mesa Community Development Corporation (WMCDC) requested \$10,000 for its *Safety Education/Crime Prevention Program*. This program is a continuation of the Neighborhood Safety Program which serves residential and business communities. Starting and maintaining block watch programs,

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facilitating dialogue and education between residents, and advocating for improved relationships between neighbors.

- B. Next Steps** – Scott Clapp explained the next steps in the process. The ratings from tonight’s presentations will be combined with staff’s technical evaluations and forwarded to the Mesa City Council’s Community and Cultural Development Committee for their review on Thursday, January 30th, 2014, (immediately following the Council Study Session) and on Thursday, February 6th, 2014 (if necessary), in the lower-level Council Chambers (57 E. 1st Street, Mesa, AZ 85201). The Committee’s funding recommendations will then be forwarded to the Mesa City Council for review and approval at the Council Study Session on Thursday, February 27, 2014, and on Thursday, March 6, 2014 (if necessary) at 7:30 a.m. in the lower-level Council Chambers (57 E. First Street, Mesa, AZ 85201).

All approved funding recommendations will be included in the City’s FY 2014/15 Annual Action Plan that is submitted to the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Prior to submission to HUD, members of the general public may comment on the Plan during its 30-Day Comment Period from March 11 to April 11, 2014. Comments will also be accepted at Public Hearing #2 that is tentatively scheduled on April 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in a to-be-determined location.

IV. Action Items – There were no action items at this time.

V. Staff Reports and Announcements –

- A. Department Updates** – The next meeting will occur on February 6, 2014. The consultant has been hired for our Consolidated Plan and will be conducting interviews with various stakeholders in the near future. At the next meeting, we’ll have a debriefing of the funding process that we just engaged in.

- B. Housing projects** – No announcements or reports at this time.

- a. CDBG
- b. HOME
- c. NSP

VI. Adjourn the meeting - Diana Yazzie Devine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Heather Kay and carried by a vote of 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.