



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 13, 2023
City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Neal Shearer, Vice-Chair Tricia Serlin, Commission Members Jeff Jameson, Roger Lurie, Patrick Dodds, Mary Jung, and Stuart Turgel

STAFF: Greg Bestgen, Director; Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager, Andrew Sweeny, Management Intern, Mike Lopach, Human Services Manager

Call to Order

Chair Shearer called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2023

One grammatical correction was made.

COMMISSIONER JAMESON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 23, 2023 HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER DODDS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, LURIE, DODDS, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. FY2023/2024 Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC) Funding Allocation

Chair Shearer noted that this item was originally on the March 23rd agenda. Staff was tasked to gather more information regarding the two applicants. Mary Witkofski, Interim Community Assistance Office Manager, clarified that the available budget is \$105,000, not \$125,000. There has been no change in the funding requests and no further communication with the agencies. Greg Bestgen, Director, commented that there are only funds available to fund one of the proposals. Discussion ensued regarding the fact that the Area Agency on Aging will only supply service to the northern portion of the City (servicing approximately 80 individuals), while Tempe Community Action Agency (TCA) will service the entire city (servicing approximately 110 individuals). The Area Agency on Aging derives its meals from Honor Health Kitchen and TCA derives its meals from Tempe Kitchen.

Chair Shearer reviewed the funding requests as follows:

➤ SRPMIC	Funding Requested
○ Area Agency on Aging, Region One – North Scottsdale Home Delivered Meals	\$ 105,000
○ Tempe Community Action Agency – South Scottsdale Home Delivered Meals	\$ 104,965

COMMISSIONER TURGEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY FORMAL FUNDING RECOMMENDATION FOR TEMPE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, LURIE, DODDS, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. Insights from the 2021 American Community Survey

Andrew Sweeny, Management Intern, provided an overview of the survey. Since 2011, Scottsdale has gained approximately 19,000 new residents. As of 2021, the total City population was 238,685. Scottsdale continues with the statewide trend of becoming more diverse. A breakdown of demographic groups was provided. While there is still a higher percentage of female residents than male residents, the ratio has become more balanced. As of 2021, females comprise 51.1 percent of the population and males comprise 48.9 percent. The aging population (65 years and above) is growing, while the younger population (under 19 years) is declining. Household incomes were reviewed, with 58 percent of the population now earning \$100,000 or more per year. With rising incomes, fewer residents are living below the poverty line. In terms of education, approximately 60 percent of the population have a Bachelor's degree or higher. Insurance coverages for residents were reviewed. Approximately 1 in 10 residents are proficient in more than one language. Housing demand details were discussed, with renter-occupied housing on the rise. Gross rents in the City have risen by \$465 between 2011 and 2021.

4. Brick by Brick and Operation Fix-It Updates

Mike Lopach, Human Services Manager, provided a brief history of the program, which began as a teen volunteer program for City parks and public works projects and evolved to work in tandem with Code Enforcement to assist residents in addressing code violations related to property upkeep. The program began to actively seek volunteers to assist in a variety of property upkeep and mitigation projects for residents in need. During the pandemic, due to shutdowns and stay-at-home orders, the use of volunteers was not feasible and CARES Act funding was used directly with homeowners to fund contractors to perform the work. Projects included front fascia, landscaping, xeriscaping, painting and other mitigating projects.

The program was moved to the Human Services Department in January of 2023 and department staff are just beginning to learn the ins and outs of the program. The program utilizes a similar application process as the Community Assistance office. Approximately 80 to 90 percent of the clients served in the program are senior citizens living on fixed incomes. A series of photographs depicting completed projects were reviewed. There is a renewed and growing sense of volunteer enthusiasm for the program. There is planned collaboration with the Neighbors Helping Neighbors organization, who have expressed interest in assisting with skilled labor at some of the subject home sites. Referrals for service requests come from Code Enforcement, social services and the Community Assistance Office. Grant funding opportunities were reviewed.

Commissioner Jameson requested that Commissioners be granted a tour of the Brick by Brick facility.

Commissioner Dodds asked for clarification on the transfer of the Operation Fix-It program from Code Enforcement to Human Services. Greg Bestgen, Director, stated that the foundation of the program makes it a better fit for Human Services. Human Services regularly interacts with senior residents. In addition, residents in need of property mitigation services are also typically in the midst of other conditions and life events and need assistance in these areas as well.

In response to a question from Commissioner Turgel, Mr. Lopach stated that original purpose of the Bricks program was to utilize the bricks for community development, specifically affordable housing. That is the primary focus. However, there have been some unique hurdles to obtaining buy-in to the idea. It is anticipated that having partnerships, such as with the School of Architecture, will go a long way in helping to move progress forward. A brief overview of potential projects was provided. Commissioner Turgel requested that staff keep the Commission informed on any and all ways that it may be of assistance to the program.

Chair Shearer stated that through Scottsdale Works, the City was able to utilize unsheltered individuals to perform hands-on work in building the bricks via the Brick by Brick program and to receive compensation and other services. On March 9, 2023, the Commission received an enlightening presentation from Director Bestgen regarding three promising programs that are currently without funding. He asked whether there are any anticipated changes in funding specifically in regards to Scottsdale Works. Mr. Bestgen confirmed that funding is available. With the new funding source, an RFP process is required.

5. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Possible future agenda items include:

- Periodical director's update
- Debriefing on the funding process

The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023.

6. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER DODDS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE CHAIR SERLIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR SHEARER, VICE-CHAIR SERLIN, COMMISSIONERS JAMESON, LURIE, DODDS, JUNG, AND TURGEL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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