



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 10, 2024
City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

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

STAFF: Kira Peters, Human Services Director; Mary Witkofski, Community Assistance Manager; Sue Oh, Human Services Manager; Mike Lopach, Operations Supervisor; Judy Doyle, Community Services Assistant Executive Director; Eugenio Munoz-Villafane, Human Services Manager; Deanna Owens, Human Services Manager; Kristy Hahn-McDonald, Human Services Manager;

Call to Order

Chair Lurie called the meeting to order at 5:01 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 September 26, 2024

A request was made to add "Revisiting Residents at Paiute" and "Homelessness" to the list of future agenda items. A correction was made to change the call to order from "Chair Shearer" to "Chair Lurie."

VICE-CHAIR JUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER SHEARER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, COMMISSIONERS COOLEY, DODDS, JAMESON, SHEARER, AND TURGEL, VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Operation Fix-It Update

Sue Oh, Human Services Manager, and Mike Lopach, Human Services Operations Supervisor, provided an overview and update on the Operation Fix-It program and services. Mr. Lopach explained that once the department took over the program, the team took time to adjust to the types of referrals they were receiving and how to respond to them. Referrals primarily come from Code Enforcement, Human Services caseworkers, the Community assistance office, and concerned citizens. Mr. Lopach reviewed how projects are completed, including the number of volunteers and volunteer hours for this year and examples of when skilled labor is hired. Since February of 2023, approximately 200 projects have been completed for 87 unduplicated clients. He highlighted projects being done in partnership with Desert Botanical Gardens and Barrio Nuevo Phoenix.

Mr. Lopach announced that November 8 will be his last day with the City.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Lopach said that the funding for the Desert Botanical Gardens "Rock the Yard" project comes from their budget, but the team is seeking additional community sponsorships. He explained that properties are sometimes revisited for proactive reasons or due to repeat violations being reported to code enforcement. He said that efforts are being made to recruit more volunteers, so that the program capacity can be expanded. Mr. Lopach clarified that the Operation Fix-It program receives \$25,000 from the General Fund and has received a grant for \$3,000 from APS the past two years. Commissioners briefly talked about the mental health benefits that go beyond the physical repairs done by the program.

3. International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Conference Update

Kira Peters, Human Services Director, provided an update from Human Service themed sessions at the recent International City/County Management Association (ICMA) conference held in Pittsburgh from September 20th to 25th, 2024. She shared various insights from sessions relevant to human services work, covering topics like promoting housing stability through economic mobility, leadership in government, managing crises in municipalities, creating healthy work cultures, and tackling homelessness.

A key theme across the sessions was the growing challenge of homelessness in cities nationwide, alongside the increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) by municipalities. She highlighted her favorite sessions and expanded on the knowledge that she gained. Ms. Peters announced that the City of Scottsdale was recognized by Polco for having the most engaging residents in local government, with over 6,000 local residents participating through Polco's platform.

Ms. Peters said she focused on sessions discussing affordable housing and homelessness and did not attend the AI sessions. She said that her understanding of the AI sessions is that they focused on helping municipalities feel comfortable using artificial intelligence to make decisions and processes more effective. She noted that the conference provided a list of all of the sessions and the slides that were associated with each session.

4. Director's Report

Director Peters provided an update on activities in the Human Services Department. Her presentation highlighted the following items:

- Vista Del Camino's recreation program. The first fall event was last Friday in the Yaqui room with approximately 50 in attendance. Additional events are scheduled for October 18th, November 1st, and November 15th.
- Octoberfest at Via Linda Senior Center on October 24, 2024.
- The 39th annual Arts and Crafts Fair at Granite Reef senior Center on Saturday, November 2, 2024.
- Paiute Neighborhood Center Family Fall Festival and Health Fair, scheduled for Saturday, November 9, 2024.
- Human Services reorganization, including an overview of managers and their new responsibilities. Recruitment will ensue to fill the vacant manager position and two full-time operations supervisors.
- Human Services Strategic Planning schedule
- Spook-Track-Ula at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park, happening October 11th through the 31st.
- Fall Festival being held October 26, 2024 at Chaparral Park.

5. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Chair Lurie noted that staff provided Commissioners with a list of proposed topics for the year.

6. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER DODDS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER TURGEL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR LURIE, VICE-CHAIR JUNG, COMMISSIONERS COOLEY, DODDS, JAMESON, SHEARER, 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 5:43 p.m.

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