

## Economic Development Department

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### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

#### MARCH MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2024

#### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) met on **March 20, 2024, at 12:30 PM**, via a hybrid model including in-person (at 9 E. Vermijo Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903) and the virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting platform. **Board Chair, Mr. Tyler Stevens, called the meeting to order at 12:32 PM.**

#### **Roll Call**

The Community Development Advisory Board members **present** were:

- Matt Buffington (D2) via Microsoft Teams
- Emily Peacock (D3)
- Tamara Estes (D4)
- Denise Howell (Manitou Springs)
- Rachel Starr (D1)
- Cindy Tompkins (Calhan/Ramah) (Vice Chair)
- Madeline VanDenHoek (Monument)
- Tyler Stevens (GMF) (Chair)
- Todd Evans (Fountain)
- Samantha Padgett (Palmer Lake)
- El Paso County Commissioner, Holly Williams (EPC Board of County Commissioners Liaison) via Microsoft Teams

The Community Development Advisory Board members **absent** were:

- Robert Null (D5)

Other persons present at the meeting were:

- Luke Houser (Community Development Analyst, Economic Development Department & Staff Liaison)
- Randi Davis (Housing Analyst, Economic Development Department)
- Natasha North (Project Manager, Economic Development Department)
- Crystal LaTier (Executive Director, Economic Development Department)
- Nancy Nelsen (Channel & Audio/Visual Team Lead, Communications Department)

## II. **Approval of February 21, 2024 CDAB Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Estes moved to approve the minutes from February 21, 2024, as presented, and, upon a second by Ms. VanDenHoek, the motion passed unanimously.

## III. **Consideration of the 2024 PY Application List**

Ms. Davis provided a comprehensive overview of the 'CDBG Application List 2024.xls' with Mr. Houser explaining that this meeting will focus on Public Service applications. Ms. LaTier provided a comprehensive overview of those Public Facilities, Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development applications that were reviewed and considered at the February 21, 2024, CDAB meeting.

## IV. **2024 CDBG Public Service Application Review**

Mr. Houser shared the El Paso County 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan Goals, asking for the consideration of these ten goals by CDAB members as they review/discuss applications. Ms. LaTier provided a detailed explanation for why we adhere to the ten EPC ConPlan Goals. In alphabetical order Mr. Houser provided a comprehensive overview of each applicant within the Public Service category:

### **Summary of Discussions:**

- **Community Partnership for Childhood Development** – *Early Childhood Education for Disadvantaged Children*
  - Mr. Houser provided an overview of the application, as well as a detailed description of ARPA funding (as it applies to each individual applicant). Ms. LaTier provided a detailed explanation for ARPA funding and how it applies to El Paso County.
- **Forge Evolution** – *Expansion of Behavioral Health Services*
  - Mr. Houser provided an overview of the application, as well as an overview of the *COS Teen Court*. Ms. LaTier explained the involvement of Forge Evolution within the EPC community, and how they have established trackers in place for monitoring clientele from outside the City of Colorado Springs. Ms. VanDenHoek inquired about what their ARPA funds were utilized for in the past, and Ms. LaTier explained that programmatic support was the specificity.
- **Fountain Valley Senior Center** – *Senior Citizen Programming*
  - Mr. Houser provided an overview of the application, as well as a detailed overview of the partnership that FVSC has with EPC. Additionally, Mr. Houser explained that the services outlined within their 2024 application would not fall under the “new or expanded services” requirement for CDBG eligibility, as it only maintains currently established programming. Ms. Tompkins explained that there were past situations where FVSC’s capacity to procure CDBG was limited. Ms. Estes disclosed that she serves the FVSC Board, agreeing that the issues that EPC staff outlined are concerns shared by the Board..
- **Pikes Peak United Way** – *Transportation Connection Services*
  - Mr. Houser provided an overview of the application, including how transportation services will be provided (i.e., *gas cards, bus passes, and lyft/uber vouchers*). The board had questions related to duplication of services of other known providers in their outlying areas and how the stringent client tracking information could be accomplished as the residents home address and income would be required for qualification
- **Project Angel Heart** – *Home-Delivered, Medically-Tailored Meals Service*
  - Mr. Houser provided an overview of the application, including the status of ARPA funding. Ms. Tompkins asked for an explanation of the transportation cost as it applies to the outlined volunteerism. Ms. VanDenHoek indicated that the cost per client appeared high. Ms. Tompkins asked for an explanation for the number of meals provided, which is detailed as 7-14 meals (+ bread, fruit & dairy) per week, or 1-2 meals/day.
- **Serenity Recovery Connection** – *Peer Recovery Support Services in Rural Areas*

- Mr. Houser provided an overview of the application, including the status of ARPA funding. Mr. Houser explained that previous staff notes indicated that in 2022, SRC's deliverables were submitted late, due to staff turnover. Ms. Howell asked for clarification on the (soon to be resigning) President of SRC, indicating her support from years previously. Ms. Howell also highlighted that SRC may receive a significant grant amount to combat opioid addiction within El Paso County.
- **The Place** – *Street Outreach Program*
  - Mr. Houser provided an overview of the application, including the status of ARPA funding (including associable concerns that were reiterated by EPC staffers). Mr. Houser also explained that funding was withheld by the EPC BoCC in 2023. Ms. LaTier reiterated severe ARPA concerns, which include non-retention of goals and staff knowledge due to high staff turnover. Ms. LaTier explained that contractual County commitments require that ARPA funds be spent on COVID-related services by the end of 2024, which does not seem achievable. Commissioner Williams spoke on behalf of the BoCC, explaining her hesitancy and that there are still concerns for funding (which includes their non-drawdown of ARPA).

From a funding perspective, CDAB discussed which applications are ineligible and non-viable. A review of the updated Application List, as well as additional discussions about specific details of applications, was conducted. Specifically, how to reduce the non-applicability/redundancy/duplication of services among all applications was discussed. No definitive funding decisions were made at the conclusion of these discussions.

- **Exponential Impact** – *Survive & Thrive Program*
  - Mr. Houser provided an overview of questions that were asked (and answered) from the previous (February 21, 2024) CDAB meeting. While the CDAB was excited about the potential of an Economic Development application, the question of viability of their application remains. CDAB did not think an in-person presentation from XI was warranted at this time.

**V. Other Business**

**A.** Upcoming Meetings

- i.** April 17, 2024, at 12:30 pm

**B.** Other Business

- i.** Comments from Board members
  1. No Additional Comments Received

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Stevens at 1:39 PM.

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**Tyler Stevens**, *Chair of the Community Development Advisory Board, presided.*

*Public notice for the meeting posted online via the El Paso County Agenda Suite, March 18, 2024.*