

M I N U T E S

GARDEN GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (NICC)

SPECIAL MEETING

COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER  
11300 STANFORD AVENUE  
GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY  
AUGUST 3, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: A special meeting of the NICC was called to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center.

PRESENT: CHAIR HANNA, VICE CHAIR MARCARIO,  
COMMISSIONERS FREER, KAHF  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS KILL, MENDOZA, SALAZAR

ALSO PRESENT: Allison Mills, Senior Project Manager; Mary Ann Hamamura, Deputy Director; Grant Raupp, Administrative Analyst; Monica Covarrubias, Administrative Analyst, and Nancy Ragen, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Marcario led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Marcario moved to approve the Minutes from April 13, 2009, with a correction regarding the Vice Chair nomination, seconded by Commissioner Kahf, and was carried with the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: HANNA, KAHF, MARCARIO  
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: KILL, MENDOZA, SALAZAR  
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS: FREER

PUBLIC HEARING

Consideration of Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) funding recommendations

Staff reviewed the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) funds and the proposed award amounts for sub-recipients.

Chair Hanna opened the public hearing to receive testimony.

Ms. Sharon Wie, representing Interval House, requested funds to provide financial help to families through short-term and medium-term rental assistance, case management, legal assistance, credit repair, counseling, outreach to victims of domestic violence, as well as referrals from the local family resource center partnership.

Commissioner Freer asked if the legal assistance provided is the same one as the Legal Aid Society, and what type of legal assistance would be offered.

Ms. Wie stated the Legal Aid Society is a different organization; Interval House would be providing legal assistance specific to financial situations such as resolving issues with creditors and landlords.

Mr. Paul Leon, Executive Director of the Illumination Foundation, explained the Foundation is in partnership with 30 to 40 different organizations, including the Orange County Public Health Department and mental health; their programs are run through the motels because that's where they are finding most of the families; this year the Foundation has taken 120 families off the streets or out of shelters; about 32 families have graduated, are independent and living in apartments, and 25% of the families have found employment.

The Foundation has on-site case managers, mental health counselors, take domestic violence overflow, and are one of the only shelters that take teenage boys all the way up the age of 18. The Foundation has medical mobile vans that go out through the county in partnership with UCI, CHOC, O.C. Rescue Mission, and are purchasing their own.

Dawn Lee, Executive Director of O.C. Partnership, stated they are a nonprofit working regionally around Orange County. Their task is to strengthen the continuum of care to help the homeless and at-risk clients move to stability; collect demographic and service utilization and outcome information on clients that are seeking services of Orange County service providers.

Commissioner Kahf inquired if there was a cost to those agencies participating in the network. Ms. Lee commented there is a nominal fee of \$250.

There being no further comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

In reply to Chair Hanna's question regarding administrative cost, staff replied it can only be 5% of the total grant the city receives and a portion of that is provided to the subgrantees.

Commissioner Freer stated she found it difficult to comprehend funding the Legal Aid Society so that the people they represent could sue their landlords and other Garden Grove residents who are taxpayers; and if the City had an option, the funding should instead be given to other groups.

Staff replied legal services are an eligible cost under the terms of the HPRP program and the city can choose to fund or not fund to different groups.

Commissioner Kahf inquired about the criteria used to select the applicants. Staff replied there was a scoring system used that dealt with capability, program, and whether or not they are part of a collaborative.

Vice Chair Marcario commented she did not have any problems with the legal aspect because it will help to educate those who find themselves in this situation how to participate in the system and what options are available to them.

Vice Chair Marcario moved to accept and transmit the HPRP funding recommendations to City Council, seconded by Commissioner Kahf, and was carried with the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: HANNA, KAHF, MARCARIO  
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: FREER  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: KILL, MENDOZA, SALAZAR

MATTERS FROM STAFF

Review of Draft Housing Element

Staff provided a power point presentation regarding the Housing Element Update for 2008-2014.

Commissioner Kahf asked if the water supply was included in the Housing Element. Staff replied it's about demographics and water is addressed in another element of the General Plan.

Chair Hanna expressed concern on rezoning and noted the City needs to make sure that the projects fit within the neighborhood.

Commissioner Freer asked for clarification on small lot subdivisions. Staff explained a large lot would be divided into smaller lots for new development of single-family homes. The small lot subdivision provisions addressed in the development standards set up a minimum lot size, and the Housing Element does not change the normal planning process.

Vice Chair Marcario moved to transmit the 2008-2014 Housing Element to the Planning Commission, seconded by Commissioner Freer, and was carried with the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: HANNA, FREER, KAHF, MARCARIO  
NOES: COMMISSIONERS: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: KILL, MENDOZA, SALAZAR

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chair Marcario announced the approval by City Council of a community garden located at Garden Grove Boulevard and 8th Street; and she is creating mosaics and placing them in neighborhoods to help beautify the city.

Chair Hanna requested staff to notify NICC members in advance of Special Meetings via email.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

NANCY J. RAGEN  
Recording Secretary