

The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on July 17, 2018

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

June 19, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Mercer, Commissioners Kline, Ma, McEachran, Oxrieder, Perelman, Piper

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Alex O'Reilly, Dee Dee Catalano, Christy Stangland, Department of Parks and Community Services; Nancy LaCombe, City Manager's Office

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Mercer who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Perelman who arrived at 6:18 p.m.

3. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Oxrieder reported that she participated in the ARCH tour of public housing. She noted that Imagine Housing was given a lot of attention during the tour. She said while there was no place visited in which all units were considered affordable, the combinations within multifamily and neighborhoods of affordable and market-rate housing was very interesting.

Commissioner Ma added that it takes a variety of strategies in providing affordable housing. Some of the units visited were market-rate but less expensive overall because they were dormitory style units in which there was just a room and a bathroom in a community living format in which kitchen facilities are shared. Developments of that sort will continue to be needed to fill the projected need of

400,000 more units by 2040. Redmond requires developers to include affordable housing; Bellevue only incentivizes affordable housing and to date developers have largely chosen not to take advantage of those incentives.

Commissioner McEachran said the request the affordable housing technical advisory group brought to the Council included the suggestion to put a one percent surcharge on all development to ensure the growth of attainable housing in Bellevue. The political will in that regard is based on a controversy between economic development and the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner McEachran said he attended the Basic and Transitional Studies graduation ceremony at Bellevue College. He said the college is one of the city's largest neighborhoods and does a marvelous job of reaching out to the cross-cultural communities. The *Puget Sound Business Journal* in its most recent edition had an article titled "Headless" that focused on the fact that Seattle is in desperate need for leadership as it recovers from the head tax issue. The article was a stunning review of the product brought forward by McKinsey showing the incapacity of King County to make a response that is not Seattle centric, leaving the Eastside sucking air in terms of affordable housing. The TAG group proposed 2500 affordable housing units over the course of ten years, but even that will not close the gap. In addressing attainable housing, job support is and will continue to be critical.

Chair Mercer remarked that a friend of hers in similar circumstances in regard to professional degree and income is in considerably different circumstances. She said that while she was able to buy a house eight years ago, her friend was not. So while her home value has doubled, her friend rents an apartment. The house payments are \$300 per month more than her friend's rent payments, but the interest on the mortgage is deductible, which is not true of rent. Recently there was a mix-up at the bank and her friend's rent payment did not go through on time, and the result was a \$300 fee. The issue of housing is not facing just the homeless. There are many professionals who for all intents and purposes are being killed by the system. Just creating all kinds of affordable units will not necessarily fight the market forces.

Commissioner Kline urged the Commissioners to read the McKinsey report which is very substantive and looks at a lot of aspects of homelessness that other reports have not addressed. She said she has had the perception for some time that a large percentage of the homeless population in Seattle moved in from outside the area, drawn by the benefits available to the homeless. The report did not bear that out at all.

Commissioner Ma asked if there were any way the Commission could recommend to or push the Council to change city policy to require the inclusion of affordable housing units in all development. He said economically people will want to come to Bellevue no matter what, and developers are going to develop in Bellevue no matter what. For affordable housing to be optional is a serious oversight that is resulting in the loss of opportunities every year. Human Services Manager Alex O'Reilly stated that as

Bellevue residents the Commissioners are absolutely entitled to make personal contact with the Councilmembers. City Manager's Office Assistant Director Nancy LaCombe added that the Commission as an official body could advise the Council that the lack of affordable housing is a rising issue that will impact the city in a variety of ways.

Commissioner McEachran pointed out that the Council has already accepted the first strategy of the TAG, which is to find properties owned by faith communities and schools, as well as surplus government sites, on which affordable housing can be constructed. The approach would take very little re-permitting. He said pushing the envelope of affordable housing should begin there.

Commissioner Ma reiterated that it will take a number of strategies to really address the affordable housing issue. Focusing only on obtaining the more readily available properties will not be enough.

Ms. LaCombe reported that she has been following the ongoing Land Use Code amendment process related to allowing shelters as a use in the city. The Council recently held a public hearing and is slated to have a discussion on June 25. The potential exists that the Council will adopt the amendment that day as well, though there are contingency dates of July 2 and July 16. The interim controls currently in place allowing a shelter in the city expire on August 6.

Ms. LaCombe also informed the Commission that there is a homeless management leadership team made up of city department directors that has been meeting weekly to keep abreast of issues. One thing the group has been discussing is the potential of creating something similar to Seattle's navigation team that involves conducting outreach; the focus would be on assigning outreach workers and possibly some policy officers to do the work in Bellevue. Redmond and Everett both have something similar involving outreach workers. The homeless management team is considering putting together a budget proposal to hire a full-time outreach worker who would also work internally to increase coordination between fire, police, parks and other city departments. Given that the Council is facing a budget neutral year, adding the position will require an offset somewhere else. The position would not replace the Congregations for the Homeless outreach worker.

Commissioner McEachran asked Ms. LaCombe for her take on the 72 people who offered testimony during the Council's public hearing on the shelter issue. He said he was very happy to see that the faith communities weighed in heavily. Ms. LaCombe said she was actually surprised there were not more people to give testimony. She said she was impressed with the depth and breadth of the comments made by folks on both sides of the issue. She agreed that the faith community had done a good job of coordinating and making sure the right people were present, and allowed that those opposed to the shelter were equally prepared. The discourse was civil and that was a good thing.

Ms. LaCombe said the budget recommendation of the homeless management leadership team will likely not mesh with the funding recommendations forwarded to the Council by the Commission. She said the need is clear. The Congregations for the Homeless outreach worker operates full-time but is not able to do all that needs to be done.

Commissioner Ma noted that the shelters in the area are largely operating at capacity and he asked if referrals made by the outreach worker could even be addressed. Ms. LaCombe said some shelters are not currently at capacity, but she agreed that successful outreach could change that picture. The need for shelter space is likely to increase.

5. DISCUSSION

A. Round 2 of Application Review – Goal 1 and Goal 2

Chair Mercer commented that the Commission has in the past developed along with the recommended funding an outline of what would be funded if there were additional funds available.

Commissioner Perelman said her preference would be to ask for new funding to address new programs that focus on diversity, such as aging, disability and culture, as well as programs that service illegal immigrants, including legal assistance and health services.

Commissioner McEachran said the McKinsey report was clear about the reasons why people become homeless. The factors listed included loss of jobs and substance abuse problems. The programs in Goal areas 3, 4 and 5 address those areas. Goal 1 is indeed powerful, but the action is in the other goal areas when it comes to remediating homelessness.

Commissioner Ma proposed adding a third column and including in it funding for certain programs along with a clear rationale. Commissioner Oxrieder agreed and suggested that items placed in the third column could be called out for how they specifically address diversity or meeting cultural needs. Chair Mercer agreed but proposed expressly marking those programs that meet the lens outlined by Commissioner Perelman.

Grant Coordinator Dee Dee Catalano said the options before the Commission in working through the applications were to fully fund the request; keep the funding flat with no increase above the 2018 amount; add a cost of living adjustment of 3.52 percent to the 2018 funding amount; and not fund the application at all.

Ms. Catalano also proposed that where the Commission has additional questions not answered by the staff reviews that will affect their funding decisions, staff would invite those representatives from goal areas 1 and 2 to attend the meeting on June 26. She

stressed the need to have specific questions for the representatives to address. For goal areas 3 and 4, agency representatives will be asked to attend the following week and so on until all of the goal areas have been reviewed.

1. Attain Housing: Welcome Home Program

Commissioner McEachran noted that at the May 1 meeting the Commission was divided as to whether or not the agency has the capacity to respond to the needs related to financial assistance for the very low-income population.

Chair Mercer suggested there were two questions for the Commission to address, beginning with whether or not the program should be funded, either at the previous level with a COLA, or at the full request. The second question is whether or not there are other programs with more capacity that could use the dollars more efficiently.

Commissioner Ma said the other programs offering a similar service are Solid Ground, Hopelink and Salvation Army.

Commissioner Perelman said the requested increase is more than double but does not come with an indication that the number of people served in Bellevue will be doubled. She suggested the 2018 award of \$8000 is not enough to continue meeting the need and it would be better to shift the dollars to a different program. She recommended not funding the application.

Chair Mercer said she was inclined to keep the funding flat for the first round to see where things end up. Commissioner Piper said that was his inclination as well. Commissioner Ma said he would support that approach.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that 22 households would get funded at the full request level. Given that that represents a fourfold increase over the 2018 level, the amount of households served would only be five or six.

Human Services Planner Christy Stangland commented that according to the proposal based on the staff report, the request represents only a 25 percent increase in the number of directly funded clients. The balance would be used for a staff person.

Chair Mercer said she would like to see an increase in support for the area of direct funding overall. Commissioner Perelman agreed that if Attain Housing is not funded, the \$8000 or so should be earmarked for a similar program offered by another agency. Chair Mercer said that would mean giving the funds to either Hopelink or Solid Ground.

Commissioner Ma said Hopelink serves more and would be the logical choice.

Commissioner Kline commented that the Solid Ground argument about leveraging funding from other sources to cover its overhead does not ring true. The program overall appears to be incurring a higher overhead cost. She agreed the best option was to shift the funds to another program. However, until there is something that resembles coordinated entry for the type of service, the result of taking money away from the little pockets they are used to accessing may be a disservice to certain folks.

Ms. O'Reilly stressed the need to consider the unintended consequences of shifting the funds. Concentrating the funds in a particular agency could potentially harm those who must go to a second place to get the assistance they need because they have reached their limit at the first agency.

Commissioner McEachran said the Commission discussed in the first round the fact that folks often graze from agency to agency to get their needs met. Giving more capacity to a single agency may reduce that to some extent. That was the approach taken by the Commission previously regarding e-bags when funding for them was shifted from the emergency feeding program to Hopelink, the result of which is that e-bags are more readily accessible.

Commissioner Perelman said Attain Housing does not come across to her as being as well-rounded an organization as other organizations funded by the city that can offer additional services.

Chair Mercer and Commissioners Perelman and Piper favored defunding the application and shifting the funds to a similar program elsewhere. Commissioner Ma said for the first round he would prefer to fund the application with a COLA increase. Commissioners Kline and Oxrieder agreed with Commissioner Ma.

There was consensus to initially fund the application at the 2018 award level.

2. Catholic Community Services of King County: Eastside Emergency Shelter for Families

There was consensus to fund the application at the requested amount.

3. Catholic Community Services of King County: Emergency Assistance

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase, not to exceed the requested amount.

4. Catholic Community Services of King County: New Bethlehem Day Center

Chair Mercer noted that the request included an increase of \$5000 over the previous funding level, and added that there is a potential for a greater increase the next time

around to address their planned expansion. Ms. Stangland said the expansion is planned to occur in the spring of 2020.

Commissioner Kline noted that the increase was below what a COLA increase would be.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

5. Community Homes, Inc. :Housing Readiness Workshops-Adults w/Intellectual/Dev. Disabilities

Chair Mercer said she would support funding the new application, but also suggested flagging the program for potential funding with supplemental funding. There was consensus to take that approach.

6. Community Homes, Inc. : Community-based Housing-People w/Intellectual/Dev. Disabilities

There was consensus not to fund the application.

7. Congregations for the Homeless: Day Center

Commissioner Piper recommended funding the application with a COLA increase based on the ask versus the projected change in the number of residents served.

Commissioner Perelman noted that what the agency wants to do is move to being opened daily 12 hours per day. Ms. O'Reilly said the agency has stated that the day center hours will not be increased if the funding is not increased.

Commissioner Oxrieder said she could support partially funding the application, but not at the full requested amount.

Ms. O'Reilly said there is a full-time mental health counselor on staff who is occupying one of the rooms on the second floor of the Lincoln Center. The opportunity to connect clients with services is a primary advantage of the day center over the night shelter. The agency is doing a very good job of bringing in assistance.

Commissioner Ma said the proposal is to increase from eight hours per day to 12, and to increase from five days a week to seven. He said he would support partial funding on the hope that the agency could extend beyond being open five days a week without increasing the hours per day.

Commissioner Kline commented that the proposal would increase salaries from \$70,000 to \$225,000. She said that is the equivalent of about three more people.

Commissioner Perelman questioned why Bellevue should be the main funder for the program given that clients come from all over the place to use the program. She said she could support funding at the \$60,000 level. Commissioner Kline said she wanted to know what threshold amount of money would be needed in order for the agency to do anything more. She said \$60,000 might be enough, but that she would want to see that amount collectively given by all of the cities.

Commissioner Piper pointed out that the increase in the ask was about \$94,000. Splitting the difference would be \$47,000, which added to the previous allocation would be on the order of \$80,000.

There was consensus to fund the application at \$80,000.

8. Congregations for the Homeless: Men's Eastside Winter Shelter (EWS)

Commissioner Oxrieder asked if the shelter will be at the same location for the coming winter. Ms. O'Reilly said it appears it will be there for a few more years.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that the ask in part seeks to cover the cost of a new security guard. Chair Mercer said that is in response to issues that have occurred in previous years.

Commissioner McEachran said it was difficult to realize that it will take between \$250,000 and \$300,000 to bring the facility up to fire safety standards in order to keep the facility open year round. He said it will certainly be a question what the winter shelter will look like and where it will go in the next biennium.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

9. Congregations for the Homeless: Housing

Commissioner Piper said the application did not indicate any uptick in the number of forecasted service units or clients served. Commissioner Kline noted that the request was for funding to give the housing case managers cars to drive, as well as to cover the increased rental costs.

Chair Mercer said she would prefer to increase funding to Congregations for the Homeless to pay for a security guard than to pay for cars. Commissioner McEachran questioned whether the city should be funding a security guard. Commissioner Kline pointed out that the request also includes money for case management, which is more easily justified.

Commissioner McEachran pointed out that folks in the Wilburton neighborhood are opposed to having the winter shelter permanently located in their area. There certainly are tensions that the additional security will help to address.

Chair Mercer agreed it would be better to fund additional case management over a security guard.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

10. Congregations for the Homeless: Outreach

Chair Mercer proposed funding the application with a COLA increase and carrying over the balance of the request to the potential additional funding column.

Commissioner Oxrieder observed that the agency is seeking funding to cover an additional outreach worker to cover three cities.

Commissioner Perelman commented that if the city moves ahead with funding an outreach worker the program will benefit.

Commissioner McEachran asked if Redmond and Kirkland help to fund the outreach worker. Ms. O'Reilly said Kirkland does but Redmond has its own outreach person. Commissioner McEachran said it appeared to him the focus was on creating an Eastside navigator through City Hall to work with the Congregations for the Homeless outreach efforts. He added that he was not sure the navigators are the real answer to the question and questioned if they are really producing positive outcomes. Ms. O'Reilly said it is still an open question with regard to what the research says about the model. A preliminary search turned up very little about the efficacy of outreach programs.

Ms. Stangland commented that the Sophia Way outreach application reports a 400 percent increase in the number of women getting into housing. Their results are based on a different model from what they are applying for, one that is not connected to a focus on those living in their cars. Commissioner Kline said it is very clear what Sophia Way wants its outreach person to do.

Commissioner Kline said in her mind there is a blurred line between a case manager and an outreach worker. She said absent a clear description of what the Congregations for the Homeless outreach worker would be doing, she would lean more toward funding case managers who go out into the community.

Commissioner McEachran said outreach workers act as maitre d's seeking to connect people to attainable housing. The case managers mentor the men in the night shelter and create more relationships as a result.

Ms. Stangland said the outreach workers currently fill in the case management gap in the day centers. There are currently no case managers in either the Sophia Way or the Congregations for the Homeless day centers.

Commissioner Ma agreed with the sentiment of questioning the effectiveness of outreach. He said he would be inclined to taking some funding from Congregations for the Homeless outreach request and putting it into their new program Up and On Housing.

Commissioner Kline said she would not want to see the program reduced below the previous funding level. She said she would suggest flat funding with a COLA increase. Chair Mercer concurred, adding that defunding the application entirely would send the wrong message. She said it would be far easier to justify not funding a second outreach worker.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

11. Congregations for the Homeless: Up and On Housing

Commissioner Ma said he would like to see the program funded. Commissioner Perelman said her inclination was to not fund the new program. Commissioner McEachran said he was on the fence, adding that the program is very good.

Commissioner Piper agreed that the program is innovative but said he had concerns about the number of residents served. He said he leaned toward not funding the application.

Commissioner Ma said the program is the transitional piece that will really give support to those coming out of homelessness and seeking stability. In the long run it will save money by assisting folks in not falling back into homelessness. Commissioner Kline agreed and pointed out that the program is different in that it exists outside of coordinated entry.

Commissioner Perelman clarified that for the requested \$16,000, only two people will be assisted according to the application.

Chair Mercer said a part of her would prefer to beef up coordinated entry to become more effective. Putting the funds into the day center would result in touching far more people. Commissioner Ma said the program is not about touching more people, rather it is about focusing on people who have already transitioned toward getting out of homelessness but who still face struggles that need to be overcome before being fully reintegrated. To not provide support is to risk seeing those people fall back into homelessness.

Commissioner McEachran said the affordable housing inventory for Bellevue includes something like 86 different places. He suggested that by working with the men in the shelter some could be moved in the direction of those places in a sort of Eastside coordinated entry system.

The majority of Commissioners concluded not to fund the application but to include it in the additional ask column.

Chair Mercer suggested that during the next discussion round Goal 5 should serve as the starting point. There was consensus to do that.

12. Congregations for the Homeless: Year-Round Rotating Shelter

Commissioner McEachran commented that for many years the Congregations for the Homeless rotating shelter was the only shelter program in town. A collaboration of faith communities opened their doors and assisted in providing not only space but food. In some ways things have moved beyond the initial model.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that according to the application 70 percent of the men who stayed in the rotating shelter left the shelter for permanent housing. She said that is an amazing outcome that calls for fully funding the application.

Chair Mercer agreed but said she would like to see those same statistics for men beyond six months after leaving the shelter.

Commissioner Piper recommended a COLA for the application.

Commissioner Perelman said the increased ask is to fund another navigator and rent in one of the churches. Ms. Stangland said the navigator helps the clients find and connect with housing resources.

Chair Mercer asked how the program's outreach differs from the day center and winter shelter case management request. Commissioner Perelman said they address different populations. Chair Mercer suggested that if a navigator is funded along with increasing funding for the year-round shelter by \$30,000 to get to the full number, the allocation will be saying the Commission thinks the navigator and the year-round shelter will have more of an impact than the navigator for the Eastside Winter Shelter.

Commissioner Ma pointed out that much of the money requested would go to rent at \$5400 per month. Commissioner Kline clarified that those funds would only cover the period of time the shelter is housed at the Redmond United Methodist Church, which is only the month of January.

Commissioner Ma said he could support giving funding the application an increase of \$5400 to cover that one month's rent along with a COLA increase to the previous funded amount.

Commissioner Kline said her inclination was to give a COLA increase and to funnel any additional money to Congregations for the Homeless into the day center expansion. The reality is the organization can move funds around as needed to make things work.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

13. DASH/Downtown Action to Save Housing: Affordable Senior Housing Assistance at Evergreen Court

Ms. O'Reilly noted the Commission had previously questioned what the funds would actually be used for, that there were only a minimum amount of low-income units, and that there was no explanation of the expenses. Ms. O'Reilly said the agency had responded by saying it will use the dollars to support two to four elderly residents per month who are waiting for Medicaid approval to supplement their rent and services. The agency indicates they are seeing the need increased as people live longer and end up burning through their savings more quickly.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

14. Eastside Baby Corner (EBC) : Meeting Basic Needs for Children

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

15. Friends of Youth: Outreach & Drop-In Services for Homeless Youth & Young Adults

Ms. O'Reilly said the program is essentially a day center and outreach, but it is not called that. It is located in Redmond near The Landing shelter.

Ms. Stangland noted that the increased ask would help to defray the loss of a federal grant.

Commissioner Kline said a COLA increase would come close to the full ask. Commissioner Perelman agreed to a COLA increase.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

16. Friends of Youth: TLP Housing for Homeless Young Adults and Young Families

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

17. Friends of Youth: Youth and Young Adult Shelter

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

18. Hopelink: Emergency Food

Chair Mercer commented that the increase in the ask was substantial.

Ms. O'Reilly said it was good that the agency included in all their applications the formula used for how they calculated Bellevue's share of their asks.

Commissioner Perelman observed that the volume of services was flat. She proposed only a COLA increase.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

19. Hopelink: Financial Assistance Resiliency Program

Chair Mercer said the ask was substantial. She said she could support at a minimum adding in the \$8000 from Attain Housing. The program keeps people from sliding into homelessness. She said she would consider fully funding the application.

Commissioner Ma agreed with the notion of putting more money into the program. It is an important program for keeping people out of homelessness. He suggestion, however, only increasing the current funding level by the \$8000 from Attain Housing.

Commissioner Kline said the program is effective and the percentage of overhead is relatively low. The program also enjoys a large geographic coverage.

There was consensus to fund the application at \$40,008.

20. Hopelink: Housing

Commissioner Perelman argued for keeping the funding flat because of the number of Bellevue residents served.

Commissioners Ma and Piper said they could support a COLA increase, while Commissioner Oxrieder said she would fully support the application. Chair Mercer agreed to go with COLA, as did Commissioner Kline.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

21. Imagine Housing: Imagine Housing Supportive Services

Commissioner Oxrieder observed that during the last funding cycle the application included a request for baby things, including diapers, which are not included in the current request. Commissioner Perelman noted that the current request includes basic need items like detergent, hygiene and cleaning supplies.

Commissioner Ma proposed fully funding the application because the program is serving more buildings and more clients.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

Commissioner McEachran pointed out that the supplying of ongoing supportive services is becoming a huge drain given that the people who supply those jobs cannot live in Bellevue and must commute from outlying areas.

22. LifeWire: Housing Stability Program

Commissioner Oxrieder said the big question the review team had was whether or not it falls to the city to make up the difference when private funding falls through. Ms. O'Reilly clarified that backfilling is not the responsibility of the city. She stressed, however, that the agencies were all directed to ask for what they need, but were told not to expect getting it all.

Commissioner Ma said he could support a COLA increase.

Chair Mercer asked what will keep the program going if the city only increases its funding by the cost of living. Ms. O'Reilly said it might take giving each client less in financial assistance. Chair Mercer noted that agencies have indicated it is easier for them to find foundations that will assist in providing direct client assistance, but much harder to find folks to pay for staff. She said she wanted to know the agency will be able to maintain the program if the Commission only gives a COLA increase. Ms. O'Reilly clarified that someone facing a domestic violence issue can come to the program and be served, where someone not having a domestic violence issue will not be served by Lifewire. That is their specific niche. Chair Mercer said she understood that but stressed that if the agency cannot pay a person to run the program, the funding earmarked for clients will not get to the clients. Ms. O'Reilly said she would put the question to the agency.

Commissioner Perelman asked what the overall agency budget is. Commissioner Kline said the application indicates that for 2018 their budget is \$4.27 million, and for 2019 it will be \$4.70 million. Commissioner Perelman suggested the agency will not close the program if it does not get the full requested amount from Bellevue.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

23. LifeWire: Emergency Shelter (MSH)

Commissioner Perelman noted that their service volume was flat. She recommended no more than a COLA increase.

Ms. O'Reilly said the large increase in the ask was to cover hotel/motel vouchers in addition to funding their apartments. Ms. Stangland said the breakdown indicates a 20 percent increase for renting shelter units and a 25 percent increase for supportive services. Of the total, \$25,000 is for the hotel/motel vouchers.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

24. MAPS-Muslim Community Resource Center (MCRC) : Housing

Commissioner Ma said the housing program is very small and is only one of many things the agency does. He said he was more interested in their referral service program. He recommended not funding the application.

Commissioner Piper agreed and pointed out that the program serves only one Bellevue resident.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

25. Margie Williams Helping Hands Food Bank: Margie Williams Helping Hands Center

There was consensus not to fund the application.

26. Renewal Food Bank: Food Bank

Commissioner McEachran noted that the program reaches out to the Russian/Eastern European community in a large way. He said he would fully fund the application.

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

27. Salvation Army: Eastside Social Services

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

28. Solid Ground: Housing Stability Project

Commissioner Oxrieder said she was surprised to see in the application materials that at some point Seattle discontinued funding the Housing Stability Project.

Commissioner McEachran suggested the Commission should seek to learn a little more about the program and how it fits with similar programs. Chair Mercer agreed and said after the funding cycle is concluded the Commission would benefit from inviting representatives of the various financial stability programs to sit down and talk about coordination efforts.

By way of background, Ms. O'Reilly explained that about eight years ago there were about five emergency financial assistance programs. Along with the food banks, a program was developed called Meeting Needs Together. It was coordinated by a hired consultant. The groups met together for about a year but their funding mechanisms were so different that they ultimately could not develop a common application. Part of the conversation was focused on which group should specialize in

providing specific assistance. In time it all fell apart for various reasons. Chair Mercer said the difficult thing for the Commission is in determining who focuses on what, making it hard to decide who should get funded.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that because the systems are not currently coordinated, some clients benefit by going from agency to agency seeking assistance. If there were coordination, however, the result could be less overhead generally for all the programs. Centralizing the overhead could make more money available for clients.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

29. Sophia Way: Day Center

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

30. Sophia Way: Eastside Women's Winter Shelter

Chair Mercer said it was her understanding that the ask is intended in part to extend the shelter's open hours. Ms. O'Reilly said the agency received a grant from Symetra to pay for staff to use St. Peter's church for the summer. The extra open hours will not be funded with Bellevue dollars. The increase is earmarked for next year's summer months open hours.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that Bellevue funds more non-Bellevue residents than Bellevue residents in the facility.

Commissioner McEachran said it would be good to see the development officers for some of the high-end programs get together to talk about collaborating on community impact and fund developed.

Commissioner Perelman said she did not consider Sophia Way to be a sophisticated organization given all the trouble they have been in over the years. Commissioner McEachran pointed out that their current board members were all handpicked; each is someone who has in the past been involved in housing, and the intent is to keep from failing again.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

31. Sophia Way: Outreach

Chair Mercer said the fact that the city is locked in to the outreach effort means the application needs to be fully funded. Ms. Stangland said funding at a minimum of \$5000 in additional money for either the Sophia Way or Congregations for the Homeless winter shelter outreach program. Fully funded the Sophia Way application is not necessary.

Chair Mercer said that could take the form of keeping the funding for the application flat and adding \$5000 to that amount. Ms. Stangland clarified that it could be limited to only \$5000.

There was agreement to fund the application with \$5000.

32. Sophia Way: Sophia's Place

Commissioner Oxrieder said it was her understanding the increase in the ask had to do with adding staff to improve safety at the shelter. Hospitals were sending women suffering with mental illnesses to the shelter without meds and without treatment, which resulting in the emergence of safety issues. Ms. O'Reilly said in a recent meeting with the agency it was noted they are trying to find money for an in-house mental health counselor.

Commissioner Oxrieder suggested funding above the previous allocation but less than the full requested amount. She proposed \$70,000.

There was agreement to fund the application at \$70,000.

33. Sound Generations: Meals on Wheels

Commissioner Perelman commented that the program is not heavily utilized in Bellevue. Chair Mercer said the program is currently seeking to expand. Commissioner Oxrieder said currently the program serves 72,000 meals to 81 clients within Bellevue.

Commissioner Perelman pointed out that the total number of clients served in the greater Puget Sound area is over 400,000, making Bellevue's share minimal. She said she could support not funding the program or at least consider trimming the number of dollars currently allocated to the program.

Commissioner Kline said she wished there were more positive stories from the program. She allowed that the program provides a necessary service for a lot of people but stressed the anecdotal stories she has heard have focused on the fact that meals go uneaten. Commissioner Perelman said she has heard those stories as well and also pointed out that clients do not have to be low-income.

Commissioner Perelman observed that according to the application, 78 percent of the clients are low- or very low-income across King County.

Commissioner Kline said the application makes a big point about the program having a social aspect, but that is not actually born out as nothing is said about the delivery folks actually talking to the clients.

Chair Mercer said some cuts will need to be found somewhere.

Commissioner Perelman suggested reducing the allocation to \$10,000. Commissioners Ma and Piper called for flat funding. Commissioner Kline said she would support funding at \$15,000 just to send a message but would not want to drop down to \$10,000.

Commissioner Perelman said the agency needs to understand that Bellevue's community is very international. She added that the program simply is not penetrating Bellevue to the degree it should be.

Commissioner McEachran said he would like to have a better understanding about the meals that are actually delivered and whether or not they are good meals with good food. Commissioner Perelman said she would ask her friend who for many years volunteered to package the meals.

Commissioner Kline said the social component should also be part of the rationale. Ms. O'Reilly said the meal delivery persons are often the only ones who regularly visit with the clients, and they can pick up on things like the client not eating or not getting out of bed. That is certainly a social aspect while also being a way to take notice of something not being quite right. She agreed, however, that the social element should be indicated as an outcome in the application.

There was consensus to fund the application at \$15,000.

34. St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle King County: St. Madeleine Sophie

Ms. Catalano said Federal Way has funded St. Vincent de Paul for many years. They do home visits, interview clients, identify any other needs and make referrals as needed, all in addition to giving utilities and rent assistance.

Commissioner Ma said that approach is similar to the program offered by MAPS and said he would prefer to fund the latter.

There was consensus not to fund the application.

35. YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish: Eastside Resident Services

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

The Commission agreed to continue the meeting until 9:00 p.m.

Having indicated she would not be able to attend the July 3 meeting in person, but would be available to participate remotely, a motion to allow Commissioner Kline to participate in the July 3 meeting electronically was made by Commissioner

McEachran. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piper and the motion carried unanimously.

36. Alpha Supported Living Services: Alpha Health Services Program

There was consensus not to fund the application.

37. Asian Counseling and Referral Service: Children, Youth and Families Program

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

38. Assistance League of the Eastside: Operation School Bell

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

39. Athletes For Kids: AFK Youth Mentoring

There was consensus not to fund the application.

40. Bellevue School District: Human Services

Commissioner Perelman said she could support a COLA increase but continued to believe the evening activities and other things should be paid for by the school district. Commissioner Oxrieder agreed.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

41. Catholic Community Services of King County: Volunteer Services

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

42. Chinese Information and Service Center: Eastside Cultural Navigator Program

Commissioner Ma commented that the program overlaps to some degree with the program offered by the India Association of Western Washington. Ms. O'Reilly said the answer given by the agency when that question was asked was that at one time they had an East Indian cultural navigator but when the India Association of Western Washington wanted to have their own navigator, the East Indian person was not rehired, eliminating the overlap.

Commissioner Perelman said the increase in the ask is focused on adding resource workshops and services in new locations.

Chair Mercer said the program is important enough that she would not go less than a COLA increase. She added that she would be willing to increase the allocation.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase and to place the balance of the ask in the third column.

43. Chinese Information and Service Center: Eastside Russian Senior Program

Commissioner Perelman asked what the agency would do if the Commission chose not to fund the application. Ms. O'Reilly said she was told that the program would not be implemented in January while the agency sought other funding.

There was consensus not to fund the application and to place the full ask amount in the third column.

44. Crisis Clinic: King County 2-1-1

There was consensus to fund the application at the previous allocation amount but without a COLA increase.

45. Eastside Legal Assistance Program: Eastside Legal Assistance Program

Commissioner McEachran noted that the program is expanding. Ms. O'Reilly said the increased ask is intended to bring another attorney on board.

The Commissioners agreed the program is important.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase and to place the balance of the ask in the third column.

46. Hopelink: Family Development

There was consensus to fully fund the application.

47. India Association of Western Washington: IAWW Cultural Navigator Program

Commissioner Ma said he likes the program in that it is all volunteer based. Chair Mercer agreed but suggested the program should not be funded with base dollars.

Chair Mercer argued in favor of funding the application with \$5000 and putting the balance in the third column. Commissioner Kline said from a practical standpoint it would be better to keep all funding for the organization in one spot, and she said she

would put it into the next application. Putting the full ask in the third column will help to strengthen the argument for additional funding.

Commissioner Perelman suggested splitting the ask between funding and the third column would dilute the message.

There was consensus not to fund the application and to place the entire ask in the third column.

48. India Association of Western Washington: India Association of Western Washington

Chair Mercer said she favored funding the application with a COLA increase and to push to get the dollars for the navigator.

Commissioner Oxrieder said she would support giving the application \$15,000. She said they do a lot given that it is entirely run by volunteers.

Commissioner McEachran proposed funding the application at \$15,000 and putting another \$15,000 in the third column.

Commissioner Kline stressed that funding is needed to pay staff to maintain the program.

There was consensus to fund the application with a COLA increase.

49. Issaquah Schools Foundation: VOICE Mentor Program

There was consensus not to fund the application.

There was agreement to continue the review process with application 50 at the June 26 Commission meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS – None
7. NEW BUSINESS – None
8. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None
9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kline. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McEachran and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Mercer adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date