Andy Schor
Mayor

LANSING PLANNING BOARD
Regular Meeting
February 7, 2023 – 6:30 p.m
Neighborhood Empowerment Center
600 W Maple Street, Lansing, MI

MINUTES – *Approved 3/7/23*

1. OPENING SESSION

Mr. Hovey called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

a. Present: Katie Alexander, Farhan Bhatti, Josh Hovey, Monte Jackson
b. Absent: Tony Cox, Thomas Morgan (excused), John Ruge (excused)
c. Staff: Barb Kimmel, Doris Witherspoon, Andy Fedewa, Stephen Bezold

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

3. COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. **City of Lansing Annual Action Plan, FY 2023 – 2024 Proposed Funding Allocations –** CDBG, HOME, ESG Resources**.**

Ms. Witherspoon stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to receive input on the proposed funding allocations for the Community Annual Action Plan for the fiscal year of 2023 - 2024. She said that the amount of the appropriations that the City will be receiving for fiscal year 2023 - 2024 are estimated to be the same as last year, but exact numbers are not available at this time. As with previous years, the City of Lansing will proceed with the Action Plan process/schedule and plan based on the previous year's allocations and adjust accordingly once the actual allocations are received. She said that the budget projections are subject to pro-rata adjustments based on the actual amounts awarded to the City of Lansing by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Ms. Witherspoon stated that CDBG funds can be used to fund housing rehabilitation, public service programs, and economic development that benefits persons of low to moderate income. She said that the HOME program provides down payment assistance for home buyers as well as funding for new housing and housing rehabilitation. ESG eligible activities include rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention, street outreach and emergency shelter operations.

Dr. Bhatti referenced Objective d. in the agenda packet, "*maintain at current levels the number of public and assisted housing units available to low and moderate-income households*" to ask if the department will only maintain current levels or if there is the opportunity to increase the number of these housing units.

Mr. Hovey asked if the number of housing units would ever decrease based on funding. Ms. Kimmel answered that that would only happen through demolition. Ms. Kimmel added that of the main three programs under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), funding for blight removal decreased slightly while funding for homeowner housing rehabilitation and for rental unit rehabilitation had increased slightly.

Mr. Hovey asked if the recent news about CDBG funds being administered by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority would affect Lansing. Ms. Kimmel replied no since these funds are directly from the federal government and that state changes will not affect this funding for entitlement communities.

Dr. Bhatti asked if all funds for down payment assistance were used last year. Ms. Kimmel answered that they were not and that the remainder was rolled over to this year.

Mr. Hovey opened the public hearing.

Susan Cancro, Advent House Ministries, spoke in favor of the proposed funding allocations and remarked on how her organization has utilized funds to accomplish their goals.

Karalyn Grimes, 517 Can't Wait, spoke on 517 Can't Wait's 10-point plan and urged the city to increase funding for unhoused programs.

Nancy Oliver, Holy Cross New Hope Community Center, spoke in favor of the proposed funding allocations and asked if there is a plan to increase funding broadly across the program. With Board consent, Ms. Kimmel answered that there are actually two funding allocations that the city receives and spoke briefly about HOME-ARP funds.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Mr. Hovey closed the public hearing.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE –** None

6. **RECESS** – Not taken

7. **BUSINESS**

   A. **Consent Items**

   (1) **Minutes for approval:** December 6, 2022

   The minutes from the December 6, 2022 Planning Board meeting were approved without objection.

   B. **Old Business** – None

   C. **New Business**

   (1) City of Lansing Annual Action Plan, FY 2023 – 2024 Proposed Funding Allocations

   Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Alexander, to approve City of Lansing Annual Action Plan, FY 2023 – 2024 Proposed Funding Allocations. On a voice vote the motion passed unanimously (4-0)

   (2) Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1212, renaming of "Planning Board" to "Planning Commission".

   Mr. Fedewa reminded members of Mr. Morgan's effort to align this body more with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, specifically, Article II, 125.3811, Section. 11. (1), which reads in part "*... The planning commission of a local unit of government shall be officially called "the planning commission", even if a charter, ordinance, or resolution uses a different name such as "plan board" or "planning board"*. Like all planning related cases the Committee on Development and Planning has requested that the Planning Board make a formal vote on the matter before Council action.

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bhatti, to recommend approval of Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1212, renaming of "Planning Board" to "Planning Commission". On a voice vote the motion passed unanimously (4-0)

(3) Selection of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Board of Zoning Appeals Representative.

With three members absent the Board debated postponing the votes.

Ms. Alexander made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bhatti, to table selection of Selection of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Board of Zoning Appeals Representative until the next regular meeting. On a voice vote the motion passed unanimously (4-0)

8. REPORT FROM PLANNING & ZONING OFFICE

Mr. Fedewa introduced Stephen Bezold who recently joined the Economic Development and Planning Department as a Planner.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None

10. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS – None

11. PENDING ITEMS: FUTURE ACTION REQUIRED – None

12. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.