Andy Schor, Mayor

City of Lansing HRCS Advisory Board Meeting Summary
Friday, March 21, 2024
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
HRCS Conference Room – 4th Floor
Lansing City Hall – 124 W. Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Attendance: Paul Dripchak, Ron Embry, Sean Gehle, Melissa Horste, Frank Lee, and Dr. Thomas Woods

Staff: Kimberly A. Coleman, Renee Morgan Freeman, Delvata Moses, and Toni Young

Excused Absence: Versey Williams

Others: Amany Williams, OCA

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chair Ron Embry.

R. Freeman conducted a roll call. A quorum was established.

T. Woods made a motion to accept the agenda, 2nd by P. Dripchak. Motion carried.

M. Horste made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. 2nd by T. Woods. Motion carried.

There was no public comment or communications.

T. Woods moved to accept the resignation of Josephine Washington. 2nd by M. Horste. Motion carried.

Director Coleman reported that there were adjustments to the HRCS Advisory Board general fund allocations. No agency was awarded less than they received for the current year. A few agencies received an increase due to their impact to the community and no agencies were eliminated.   There will be challenges going forward due to concerns of how to pay for a shelter. The initial plan is to be sustainable for one year, thereafter general fund allocations may have to support the shelter.   It was noted that this will affect agencies who have a negative affect on agencies who rely on HRCS General Funds. The upcoming needs assessment will help determine the priority areas of where funds should be allocated. It was asked if there was a possibility for the 1.35 percent of funding could be increased. T. Young will send advisory board members information contained in the Mayor's Budget. At this time, the funds allocated is to remain confidential. T Woods moved to accept the revised general fund allocations. Seconded by S. Gehle. Motion carried.

The Alternative Temporary Structure RFP is due March 29th. Organizations who applied will be advanced to the advisory board. There was a consensus that the April 23rd meeting be changed to April 4th, 4:00 p.m. at Foster Community Center to review the applications for a recommendation. The results of the HRCS Budget submission were shared. The salaried office support and EEO/Prevailing Wage positions were not accepted although a list of projected personnel was requested. HRCS will go before the City Council COW on April 15th to answer questions about the department budget and the general fund. R. Embry and S. Gehle will be attending. There were no sufficient changes to the department budget. However, City Council has questioned the distribution of racial equity funds identified for addressing root causes. As an alternative, a proposed racial equity fund plan may be created where agencies are asked to apply for funding to establish programs in the community related to the root causes of racial disparities. HRCS will be meeting to create the details and seek the Mayor's endorsement. No RFP will be required in this regard.

Director Coleman shared that there is a potential 1st Ward candidate for the advisory board. It was noted that the pool of candidates within the first ward is limited. It was suggested that M. Horste could transition to represent the 1st Ward, opening greater chances for the vacancy to be filled as a member at large appointment. Director Coleman will have to consult with the Mayor and/or City Attorney to see if this could be a possibility.

Director Coleman directed the meeting towards the review of the Comprehensive Study on Homelessness RFP applications. Four were received, two in-state and two out of state. The HRCS Committee Chairs met to review the applications, focusing on the in-state submissions. Chair Embry allowed time for advisory board members to review the applications. After review and follow-up discussion, S. Gehle moved to recommend Public Policy Associates. Seconded by T. Woods. Motion carried.

Policy Committee Chair M. Horste reported that there has not been a meeting. However, it was resolved to accept the HRCS Department Annual Report as the committee's report. The Committee Annual Report and any recommended resolutions will be reported at the next meeting.

Program Committee Chair T. Woods there was no report.

Budget Committee Chair S. Gehle stated that he participated in the meeting with the Mayor for the HRCS department internal budget and he had nothing further to add to Director Coleman's report.

Director Coleman stated that a change of language for the Rules of Procedures related to the quorum would be sent to Attorney Amany Williams to present at the next meeting.

It was moved by M. Horste that the meeting be adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Paul Dripchak, HRCS AB Secretary

Meeting Summary 4/3/24/rmf /KAC Final 4/4/24