

City of Las Vegas

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS FUND BOARD
CITY HALL, 495 S. MAIN STREET
CITY CLERKS 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY OF LAS VEGAS INTERNET ADDRESS: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

MINUTES June 16, 2014 2:00 PM

ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA MAY BE TAKEN OUT OF THE ORDER PRESENTED; TWO OR MORE AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION MAY BE COMBINED; AND ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA MAY BE REMOVED OR RELATED DISCUSSION MAY BE DELAYED AT ANY TIME. BACKUP MATERIAL FOR THIS AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED FROM BEVERLY K. BRIDGES, CITY CLERK, AT THE CITY CLERKS OFFICE AT 495 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 2ND FLOOR OR ON THE CITY'S WEBPAGE AT www.lasvegasnevada.gov.

1. [CALL TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

CHAIR TOUSSAINT called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR TOUSSAINT and MEMBERS THACKSTON, REID, MOULTON, SKILBRED, HOLMES, KIRK (arrived at 2:06 p.m.), SKOUSON, BORYSEWICH, GARNESS, JACKSON-RENTER (arrived at 2:06 p.m.) and POWELL (arrived at 2:22 p.m.)

EXCUSED: MEMBER ORTIZ

ALSO PRESENT: MARIA CASTILLO-COUCH, Sr. Neighborhood Outreach Specialist, TERI PONTICELLO, Deputy City Attorney, and GABRIELA PORTILLO-BRENNER, Deputy City Clerk

2. [ANNOUNCEMENT RE: COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW](#)

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations: City Hall Plaza, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor, Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue; City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive.

3. [PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED](#)

Minutes:

None.

4. [Review of evaluation scores on the Neighborhood Partners Fund Board Grant Program applications](#)

Minutes:

CHAIR TOUSSAINT confirmed that every member had received a copy of the scoring sheet. MARIA CASTILLO-COUCH, Sr. Neighborhood Outreach Specialist, explained the scoring process. She indicated the sheet was difficult to read and she would try to condense it for next years process to make it more legible.

City of Las Vegas

CHAIR TOUSSAINT indicated that the Board members would have to score the applicants, make recommendations and approve those recommendations.

MS. CASTILLO-COUCH stated that some members scored the applicants through the process and some applicants were not recommended a funding amount and given a very low rating. She suggested the board give consideration to the projects that should receive funding. CHAIR TOUSSAINT indicated that last year the Board awarded the minimum requested funding and increased it based on the projects importance. Good projects should receive more funding. MEMBER MOULTON agreed. MEMBER THACKSTON suggested granting every applicant at least 20 percent and then raising funding from that amount. MS. CASTILLO-COUCH stated that approximately \$51,000 of the \$55,000 available had been granted; therefore, the remaining \$4,000 could be distributed. CHAIR TOUSSAINT liked the suggestion.

MEMBER REID remarked that the Board should first decide whether every applicant should receive funding. She felt that John W. Bonner Elementary School, PTA should not receive any funding because it had other sources that could help with its issues and that the safety of the school should be left to the School District, noting that the City of Las Vegas has other funds the School District could request. Also, the Cultural Corridor Coalition should be eliminated because the project involved a large event with many entries under that umbrella that were doing well and the money would be spent mostly on an awareness campaign. MEMBER BORYSEWICH stated that even though the School District has a lot of money, fixing the issue as soon as possible would provide greater safety for the children, but she agreed with MEMBER REID on her issue regarding the Cultural Corridor Coalition.

MEMBER KIRK said he was surprised that a school would be requesting funds from this Board. He would rather not set a precedent for other schools and award the funding to more community minded organizations. Or perhaps the school could be awarded minimal funding and not totally excluded. MEMBER BORYSEWICH commented that for the PTA to request money for the safety of the children was uncommon, as it is the parents that normally request money for safety projects. She believed the parents were spearheading the project.

MEMBER HOLMES supported the PTAs request because she has seen drivers zoom by without any consideration for the safety of the children. As a teacher, she is aware of an organization that volunteers hours before and after school to help children cross the street, and the organization does not receive any funding from anyone.

MEMBER SKILBRED recalled a similar project in the front of the school that was funded by parents and the PTA; the school would not fund any part of it. She stressed that safety has become a bigger issue since the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department outsourced crossing guards. She agreed that the School District should pay for this project, but the reality is that it would not.

CHAIR TOUSSAINT asked if this is an unusual and unique issue to this school. MEMBER SKILBRED replied that it is unique because of the bus turnout. MEMBER HOLMES said it is not an unusual problem. MEMBER SKOUSON could understand why some funding should be recommended for the school. MEMBER REID felt strongly that this Board would be setting a precedent and recalled other similar projects funded by the City. MEMBER THACKSTON said that if the Board decides on not funding the project, it should at least give suggestions for other grant opportunities.

CHAIR TOUSSAINT asked the Board to consider not funding the Cultural Corridor Coalition given that it has many resources for income and could get its project done without funding from this Board. MEMBER BORYSEWICH said the banners were already being displayed throughout, and funding for advertising was unnecessary when there were other projects in need of funding to improve safety.

CHAIR TOUSSAINT stated that a project worth funding is the Stupak Adventure project, but Stupak receives funding by the City of Las Vegas for summer programs.

MS. CASTILLO-COUCH suggested going through the projects the Board members felt warranted funding. CHAIR TOUSSAINT indicated they were just going over the projects they did not feel were as worthy of receiving funding.

MEMBER BORYSEWICH commented that the McNeil Neighborhood Associations project to install signage would not provide any kind of safety; therefore, she did not feel the project warranted funding. MEMBER JACKSON-RENTER

City of Las Vegas

agreed and stated there was no need to expend money on purchasing signs to market the neighborhood. MEMBER KIRK felt the project should be supported, because it is an old neighborhood and the signs would encourage the residents to embrace it. MEMBER BORYSEWICH stated that erecting signs that might deteriorate and might have to be restored is not a good investment. She emphasized that there are a lot of signs throughout Las Vegas and North Las Vegas requiring replacement. She suggested that it would be better to install signs at the entrance to the neighborhood, not throughout it. MEMBER KIRK stated the metal material selected for the signs is durable and should last many years. MEMBER SKILBRED pointed out that the signs comply with street signage standards for durability.

5. [Discussion for possible action and recommendation of funding for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Neighborhood Partners Fund Board projects](#)

Motion made by MICHELLE THACKSTON to Approve funding in the following recommended amounts (with MEMBER GARNESS abstaining on Whisper Creek HOA): Stupak Neighborhood Success Team - \$5,000.00; Crossroads I HOA - \$4,400.00; NARA - \$3,000.00; Eagle Creek Heights HOA - \$5,000.00; Huntridge Neighborhood Association - \$1,300.00; Four Winds HOA - \$2,400.00; The Greens - \$3,900.00; John W. Bonner Elementary School PTA - \$3,100.00; Quail Estates West HOA - \$2,400.00; Quail Ridge Drive - \$3,400.00; Admirals Point II HOA - \$3,900.00; Whisper Creek HOA - \$3,200.00; Cultural Corridor Coalition - \$3,600.00; Aventura HOA - \$3,900.00; La Mancha, Summerlin - \$2,000.00; Western-Highland Business Association - \$1,000.00; McNeil Neighborhood Association - \$2,000.00; and Willowdale Estates HOA - \$1,500.00

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

GREG TOUSSAINT, MICHELLE THACKSTON, KIMBERLY REID, SHERESE HOLMES, AJ POWELL, LANCE KIRK, DARIN GARNESS, VICKY SKILBRED, BECKY SKOUSON, TANYA JACKSON-RENTER, BETH BORYSEWICH, DEBRA MOULTON; Against-(None); Abstain-(None); Did Not Vote-(None); Excused-(FELIPE ORTIZ)

NOTE: MEMBER GARNESS disclosed that he would be abstaining on Whisper Creek HOA because he resides in the community. MEMBER KIRK disclosed that he did not have to abstain for the Huntridge Neighborhood Association because he resides near it but not in the neighborhood.

Minutes:

The Board members discussed funding for the applicants in the order listed on the Scoring Report, a copy of which was not submitted, provided by MARIA CASTILLO COUCH, Sr. Neighborhood Outreach Specialist. They agreed on recommending full funding for the Stupak Neighborhood Success Team and on fully funding the applicants who requested nominal funding, such as Huntridge Neighborhood Association, Western-Highland Business Association and McNeil Neighborhood Association. Funding for the remaining applicants was discussed and negotiated, given that some of the members felt some projects were more warranted, particularly those that involved safety, than others and that some had other sources of revenue.

Regarding the Cultural Corridor Coalition request, MEMBER POWELL suggested recommending the full amount requested because of the multi-cultural events and even though the City should be providing funding, it is not. Also, the Arts District requests funding. MEMBER BORYSWICH stated that the City and businesses provide funding. CHAIR TOUSSAINT asked if the City was responsible for funding the museums. TERI PONTICELLO, Deputy City Attorney, replied that the City does not fund any of the museums. The monies provided are through the Community Development Block Grant program or through funding requests from this Board. The City has a long-term lease with the Mob Museum. MEMBER BORYSEWICH stated that the applicant represented that printed materials was not the focus of the project and posting on Facebook is free, unless ads on Facebook are being paid, in which case she felt the money was being misused and not targeting the right people. MEMBER GARNESS stated the applicant indicated the money would be used only for hanging the banners. The applicant was not certain the City could provide them assistance this year. CHAIR TOUSSAINT asked if the City charges to put up the banners up for events. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY PONTICELLO replied affirmatively. MEMBER SKILBRED commented that the City probably encouraged application to this Board, given the City's staff shortages. She recommended some funding because of the importance of the Cultural Corridor. MEMBER MOULTON clarified that \$1,200 was indicated for installation of the banners. The remaining funds are for printing materials. MEMBER BORYSEWICH felt the requested funding was a ridiculous amount. MEMBER THACKSTON remarked that the Cultural Corridor needs assistance with promoting and getting its name out, so funding for social media is

City of Las Vegas

necessary.

MEMBER GARNESS suggested recommending \$1,200 for the banners and \$1,100 for social media. MEMBER KIRK stated that the Cultural Corridor Coalition is the highest rated because of its potential to reach more people in the community and across the Valley for cultural, community-based reasons, but he only recommended \$3,000 for the Coalition to choose how to use the funding. MEMBER POWELL recognized that this group is important because it embraces culture, which this city lacks.

After a short recess, the Board members reviewed the recommended funding amounts. MEMBER POWELL suggested funding as discussed to that point and dividing the remaining funding among the 18 projects. MEMBER SKILBRED stated she could not support funding NARA more than \$3,000 because it does not own the land and could be asked to vacate. MEMBER KIRK recommended funding in the amount of \$400 to the remaining 13 applicants, with the extra \$500 amount awarded to Eagle Creek Heights HOA to purchase playground equipment.

MEMBER HOLMES objected to funding Willowdale Estates HOA more than \$1,500 and requested \$400 of the \$1,900 recommended amount be redirected to the Cultural Corridor Coalition, given that MEMBER POWELL had strong feelings about it. MEMBER JACKSON-RENTER agreed and MEMBER REID could not support it. MEMBER THACKSTON suggested splitting the \$400 between the Cultural Corridor Coalition and the John W. Bonner Elementary School PTA.

6. [Discussion for possible action on recommendations to amend the application process or documents used for the annual Neighborhood Partners Fund Program cycle](#)

Minutes:

MARIA CASTILLO-COUCH, Sr. Neighborhood Outreach Specialist, explained that she placed this item on the agenda to make sure she received input from the members. MEMBER SKILBRED stated that it would be a good idea to collapse the scoring because it should not be a part of the agenda. MS. CASTILLO-COUCH said she would see if it could be compressed.

CHAIR TOUSSAINT recommended scheduling the presenters more evenly. MEMBER THACKSTON suggested scheduling the scoring for the second meeting. MS. CASTILLO-COUCH indicated last year she was asked to schedule scoring on the last day to allow the members more time to enter their scores. CHAIR TOUSSAINT stated it would not be fair to score applicants on the same day of making presentations. MS. CASTILLO-COUCH commented that she would see if ZoomGrants could make the changes.

MEMBER SKILBRED suggested that required routine paperwork not be submitted and just checked on a check list to let the members know compliance was met. MS. CASTILLO-COUCH replied that she did not know if that could be done because the program is used across the nation for federal grants. Some modifications have been made for the City. She has made very few requirements to simplify the process and the applicants are required to only submit six documents. CHAIR TOUSSAINT said he trusts staff to make sure all required documentation has been submitted.

MS. CASTILLO-COUCH suggested any other recommendations be sent to her via email. CHAIR TOUSSAINT commended MS. CASTILLO-COUCH on doing a great job and making the process smooth.

7. [CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD. NO SUBJECT MAY BE ACTED UPON BY THE BOARD UNLESS THAT SUBJECT IS ON THE AGENDA AND IS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION ON ANY SINGLE SUBJECT, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED](#)

Minutes:

None.

8. [ADJOURNMENT](#)

City of Las Vegas

Minutes:

The meeting was recessed 3:11-3:21 p.m. and adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gabriela Portillo-Brenner, Deputy City Clerk

Maria Castillo-Couch, Sr. Neighborhood Outreach Specialist

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for the convenience of disabled persons. If you need an accommodation to attend and participate in this meeting, please call the City Clerks office at 229-6311 and advise of your need at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Dial 7-1-1 for Relay Nevada.

THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor
Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway
Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue
City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive