

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH GATE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 27, 2021**

INTRODUCTORY PROCEDURES

Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Abel Torres

ROLL CALL

Present:

Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel, Vice Chairperson Jimmy Torres, Committee Members Marie De Lourdes Castillo, Janet Cazares, Candice Esquivel, Susan F. Janer, Juliano A. Jarquin, Virginia Johnson, Jovanna Laborin, Angelica Martinez, Norma Mendoza, Christina Montalvo, Benigno Nunez, Lizette Ruiz, Jacqueline Saucedo, and Anthony Zepeda (16/19)

Excused Absence: Committee Member Darlene Lopez (1/19)

Unexcused Absence: Committee Members Brigitte Garza and Denisse Martinez, (2/19)

Staff: Paul Adams, Interim Community Development Director, Dianne Guevara, Management Analyst, Abel Torres, Housing and Grants Analyst and Erika Soriano Recording Secretary

AGENDA ITEM(S)

1. MINUTES

Item 1 – Committee Member Virginia Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of January 13, 2021, and Committee Member Marie De Lourdes Castillo seconded, and the motion carried (13/19). The Citizen Advisory Committee members were polled pursuant to COVID-19 Teleconference Meeting Procedures as follows, with Committee Members Angelica Martinez and Norma Mendoza experiencing technical difficulties and Brigitte Garza, Darlene Lopez and Denisse Martinez absent (3/19):

<i>NAME</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>
Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel	Yes		
Committee Member Jimmy Torres	Yes		
Committee Member Marie De Lourdes Castillo	Yes		
Committee Member Janet Cazares	Yes		
Committee Member Candice Esquivel	Yes		
Committee Member Brigitte Garza			Absent
Committee Member Susan F. Janer	Yes		
Committee Member Juliano A. Jarquin	Yes		
Committee Member Virginia Johnson	Yes		
Committee Member Jovanna Laborin	Yes		
Committee Member Darlene Lopez			Absent
Committee Member Denisse Martinez			Absent
Committee Member Angelica Martinez		No Answer	
Committee Member Norma Mendoza		No Answer	
Committee Member Christina Montalvo			Abstain

Committee Member Benigno Nunez	Yes		
Committee Member Lizette Ruiz	Yes		
Committee Member Jacqueline Saucedo	Yes		
Committee Member Anthony Zepeda	Yes		

COVID-19 Meeting Procedures were read into the record by Abel Torres.

At this time, Chairperson Esquivel stated that she requested, but has not yet received, a list of all expenditures from the last round of Covid funds and all the programs that received those funds. Management Analyst, Dianne Guevara responded that since the City Council met the evening before and allocated additional Covid funding, the list would be updated and provided to the CAC membership.

2. PRESENTATIONS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FY 2021-22
PUBLIC SERVICES

Ms. Guevara made a brief presentation on the amount of CDBG funding anticipated and the number of applications received. Thereafter, the applicants were called as follows:

Salvation Army Bell Shelter:

Alma Martinez and Rosa Chairez presented the Salvation Army Bell Shelter proposal. This program will continue to provide temporary shelter and client-centered supportive services for eligible participants for up to 90 days. Supportive services include comprehensive needs assessment, individualized case management, benefits advocacy, transportation services, employment services and health and mental health referrals. The Bell Shelter is requesting \$40,000 to provide five (5) beds exclusively for South Gate residents. This will provide assistance to 20 individuals during the course of a year.

At this time, Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel opened the meeting to questions from the audience and Citizen Advisory Committee Members.

Jeff Farber of Helpline Youth Counseling stated that they partner with the Salvation Army and expressed gratitude and support for the organization.

Committee Member Virginia Johnson expressed her concern that it's vital to keep these homeless services in the area due to the great number of homeless individuals in and around South Gate. Ms. Johnson further commented on some of the services the Bell Shelter provides and noted the great staff that runs the facility.

Vice-Chairperson Jimmy Torres requested clarification on the number of beds that would be available to South Gate residents. Ms. Martinez stated they expect to assist at least 20 individuals during the program year utilizing five beds. Ms. Martinez further stated that they will probably assist more than just 20 individuals.

Committee Member Juliano A. Jarquin asked if the facility was open 24 hours to which Mr. Martinez responded that the facility was open 365 days a year and provides wrap-around services such as case management, housing assistance and clinical services,

Committee Member Lizette Ruiz asked how long a client could be accommodated at the center and expressed her gratitude for the work that is being done. She also asked what happens when money runs out.

Ms. Martinez stated that the funds received from the City does allow for up to 90 days of accommodation for each client. She also stated that, when the contract runs out they look for other contracts, such as LAHSA, DMH and other crisis programs. Theoretically, the client could remain housed for up to two years. They also have a treatment program for individuals that are actively “using”.

Vice-Chairperson Jimmy Torres asked for clarification on the budget regarding salaries and actual services.

Ms. Martinez clarified that the funding received from all sources does not cover the various services provided, such as case management, mass disinfecting, high-tech services, etc. So that all of these services are funded by multiple grants.

Helpline Youth Counseling (HYC):

Jeff Farber, Executive Director presented the Helpline Youth Counseling Homelessness Prevention Program. HYC proposes to assist 25 low-income households who are at risk of experiencing homelessness to achieve and maintain housing stability. The strategy includes making rental payments, providing utility deposits and first month’s deposit. HYC is requesting \$40,000 of which a portion will cover case management, client intake assessment and counseling.

At this time, Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel opened the meeting to questions from the audience and Citizen Advisory Committee Members.

Committee Member Virginia Johnson expressed gratitude for the work HYC does and mentioned that they have been doing this work for over fifty years. She stated that a few council member were confused about the work HYC does and directed funds to another program not on the staff’s recommendations.

Vice-Chairperson Jimmy Torres expressed gratitude for the work HYC does in the City and asked how likely it was for a family that lost their housing in the City to get back into housing in the City, and how does the program actually work.

Mr. Farber stated that most of their clients are referred by the City or by word-of-mouth. The client must reside in the City and meet CDBG eligibility requirements in order to obtain assistance. The process requires documentation and HYC staff will meet the client to collect documents if needed. Upon approval, the check is written to the landlord or utility company and never the client. The process can take up to four weeks before the funds are paid out.

Committee Member Lizette Ruiz asked what the typical time frame is for assistance, and does HYC get back to callers in a timely manner.

Mr. Farber stated that staff members will return calls the next day and will keep trying when necessary; the process takes about four weeks.

Committee Member Jovanna Laborin asked if HYC offers assistance in filling out the paperwork and if HYC charges a “processing fee” for processing an application.

Mr. Farber responded by saying that there is a case management fee and general operating costs, as with any other organization, but there is no processing fee. Mr. Farber also stated that they do assist people with the application and with tips for gathering the needed documents.

Committee Member Susan F. Janer asked if there was a time limit for assistance.

Mr. Farber stated that CDBG allows payments for up to six months, but they try to limit the amount to three months, so as to extend the overall grant. Mr. Farber also stated that HYC keeps in touch with clients for a minimum of a year to provide case management.

Southern California Resource Services (SCRS):

Ana Ramirez presented the Southern California Resource Services (SCRS) Program. SCRS proposes to continue assisting disabled, low-income South Gate residents with assistive technology equipment and home modifications. Home modifications include such things as widening doorways, lowering counter tops and installing wheelchair ramps. Equipment includes items such as hearing devices, wheelchairs and shower seats. SCRS is requesting \$10,000 and can assist 16 participants.

At this time, Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel opened the meeting to questions from the audience and Citizen Advisory Committee Members.

Committee Member Virginia Johnson commented on SRCS and praised their service. Ms. Johnson also asked about maintenance services on equipment.

Ms. Ramirez stated that it depends on the equipment. She stated that they have warranties with most vendors and are willing to work with local businesses to assist with maintenance issues.

Vice –Chairperson Jimmy Torres asked how SCRS was providing outreach during the Covid-19 epidemic.

Ms. Ramirez stated that, prior to Covid-19, they were at community centers and senior centers in person. But now, during Covid-19, they are relying more on partnering with community partners and doing a lot of emails and regular mailings to keep the program out there. Trying to be creative.

Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Priscilla Rodriguez presented for Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Ms. Rodriguez presented a short Power Point presentation. The Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (L.A. CADA) requests CDBG funding for L.A. CADA South Gate in the amount of \$10,000., for a residential behavioral health treatment facility located at 8919 California Ave. in South Gate. This facility serves low-income and homeless residents of South Gate who are in need of residential substance use disorder (SUD) treatment (as well as treatment for co-occurring mental health disorders). L.A. CADA South Gate provides a static capacity of 45-beds in a three-month program of evidence-based addiction treatment funded by Los Angeles County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (Department of Public Health).

At this time, Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel opened the meeting to questions from the audience and Citizen Advisory Committee Members.

Committee Member Virginia Johnson asked about some complaints last year regarding residents at Eden Manor loitering around the facility

Ms. Rodriguez stated that LACADA has since purchased the property – now known as “Nuestra Casa” and have addressed the previous issues.

Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel stated that there were rumors that, once Eden Manor was taken over by LACADA, most residents were thrown out into the street.

Ms. Rodriguez responded by saying that the residents were definitely not put out on the street. They were placed with family and/or friends or assisted by other agencies.

Committee Member Juliano A. Jarquin asked if LACADA is still affiliated with NAMH- National Alliance of Mental Health on Orr & Day Road.

Ms. Rodriguez stated she believed they were, but moved to Bloomfield site.

Committee Member Christina Montalvo stated she had a question that had been asked and answered.

Committee Member Lizette Ruiz asked if people can be referred to the program by word-of-mouth and/or other agencies.

Ms. Rodriguez stated that definitely by word-of-mouth, court referrals, and other agencies. Ms. Rodriguez explained the process of enrolling a participant for care and level of treatment as determined by a clinician.

Volunteers of America of Los Angeles (VOALA)

Mr. Craig Henry, Senior Manager, began the presentation for VOALA. Caleb Anderson, Assistant Director with VOALA, presented thereafter. Volunteers of America Los Angeles is seeking \$80,000 in CDBG funds to launch a new program in the City of South Gate. The new site will provide a hub for eight service programs designed to meet the critical needs of the areas vulnerable and low-income residents – from basic needs like food, clothing, hygiene, and school supplies to in-depth support such as case management, workforce development, substance abuse treatment, mental health services and education services to address domestic violence. VOALA expects to impact the lives of at least 80 South Gate residents in the following programs: The Fatherhood (FIRE) Program, Street Outreach and Runaway Homeless Youth Program, Victims Assistance Sanctuary, Youth Opioid Response, DMH Drop-in Center and Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Program.

At this time, Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel opened the meeting to questions from the audience and Citizen Advisory Committee Members.

Vice-Chairperson Jimmy Torres expressed excitement regarding the FIRE Program supporting young fathers, and requested a physical address.

Mr. Anderson clarified that they have acquired the property known as the American Legion, but have not initiated any services.

Committee Member Christina Montalvo made a comment regarding the property on Tweedy – Spirit entity (inaudible) with similar services being offered. They were in Whittier but recently opened this office.

Mr. Anderson indicated they are looking to expand services.

Committee Member Lizette Ruiz requested clarification on the services being provided and how are services funded.

Mr. Anderson stated that outreach efforts are currently being offered from the property and that they have a plethora of funding sources, including LAHSA, and the California Endowment to fund their programs.

Mr. Henry clarified that the six programs are already funded and that they are moving the programs into the Tweedy Blvd. property, which is being refurbished; and that they are not running the Youth programs at the American Legion property— that is where Adult Veterans services are administered.

Committee Member Jovanna Laborin asked why some services were being offered at some locations and other services offered at other locations. She expressed concern that alcohol was being offered at the California Avenue site which was not conducive to someone seeking alcohol abuse services.

Mr. Henry stated that no youth services would be offered from the American Legion site. Youth services will be offered the Tweedy location. The homeless Veterans services are operated out of the American Legion site.

Mr. Anderson reiterated that no youth services will be operated out of the American Legion site – they will be offered at Tweedy.

Mr. Henry reiterated that all of the services mentioned in the presentation will be offered at the Tweedy site.

Committee Member Jovanna Laborin asked for clarification on why alcohol abuse clients couldn't just be referred to the 3723 Tweedy location.

Mr. Henry stated that services are provided during the day and not during evening hours when alcohol is served.

Committee Member Jovanna Laboring stated that bar operating hours can change at any time.

Ms. Henry stated that HUB Cities are co-located in the American Legion location and operate some of their services there.

Committee Member Jovanna Laborin stated that she was aware of this and does not agree with it.

Mr. Henry clarified that they are not operating a drug and alcohol treatment program at the American Legion site, only Veterans Homeless services. Mr. Henry further stated that the American Legion is considered a club and not a bar where veterans can hang out, play games and socialize.

Unidentified Committee Member asked what the hours of operation would be at the Tweedy location.

Mr. Anderson stated the hours are 8:00a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Committee Member Jovanna Laborin requested clarification on the Tweedy address.

Committee Member Susan F. Janer requested more details on the FIRE program.

Mr. Henry stated that this was a program funded by a Justice grant that works with young fathers age 18 – 24. Some of the fathers are placed with a mentor or are enrolled in a one year program called 24/7 DAD, which teaches parenting and fathering skills. Also conduct family “fun” events, such as movie tickets.

Committee Member Virginia Johnson expressed concerns regarding the application - and where the case managers will come from and what credentials they will have. Also, no mention of startup funds. How can organization afford the purchase of the building and how will the \$80,000 be divided among the six programs.

Mr. Anderson stated that the case managers are both licensed and unlicensed MSW's to manage the programs. Clinicians would be dedicate to the Human Trafficking programs and, through DMH, there are clinicians that will be licensed. Mr. Anderson stated that these programs are already operating throughout the region. Also, licensed practitioners for the street outreach teams.

Mr. Anderson further stated that the purpose of the hub was to provide a "one-stop-shop" so that anyone ages 18 – 24 can find services to suit their specific need.

Mr. Henry clarified the address on Tweedy as "3725 Tweedy Blvd." Mr. Henry further stated that the six programs listed in the application have already been funded. The \$80,000 requested in the application would "subsidize" the programs to provide additional services. Mr. Henry further clarified that the building has already been acquired and they are moving in.

Committee Member Virginia Johnson restated her third question as to how the \$80,000 will be allocated among the six programs.

Mr. Henry sated that the \$80,000 would be proportioned among the six programs but some may receive more than others.

Mr. Anderson explained that there may be items purchased on a daily basis, such as hygiene kit, job readiness items and/or books that some of the funding may be used for.

Committee Member Lizette Ruiz asked for more details on the Opioid treatment program.

Mr. Anderson stated that the program targets youth ages 18 – 24 and has a large educational component attached. A determination is made regarding the need for residential treatment or out-patient treatment. And the "family wellness" component that will be supplemented with a clinician so the family can address challenges.

Committee Member Lizette Ruiz asked if the agency was licensed to provide chemical dependency treatment.

Mr. Anderson stated they are licensed and have access to residential "beds" for treatment.

Committee Member Norma Mendoza requested information on which programs would be operated where and which programs would be referred out; what is the difference between Victims Assistance and Sex Trafficking Program; How many South Gate residents would benefit from the programs.

Mr. Anderson stated that at least 80 individuals would benefit from the programs; the difference between the programs is that one of them is a public service that conducts outreach and provides educational information to the community and schools. The Victims Assistance program provides more hands on services to deal with domestic violence issues.

Committee Member Norma Mendoza asked about referrals out of the City.

Mr. Anderson stated that the funds requested would not go to any outside agency.

Committee Member Juliano A. Jarquin asked if VOALA still utilizing location in Compton

Mr. Henry stated they are.

Vice-Chairperson Jimmy Torres asked what the \$8,600 in the budget was for.

Mr. Anderson stated that it could be for ancillary items that may come up, such as hygiene kits, job readiness items and some level of admin costs – including rental subsidies.

Audience Comments

Written questions from Adolfo Varas were read aloud– Will the bar at the American Legion site be in operation during business hours; will there be a temptation for Veterans to go into the bar? Some Veterans are homeless due to the addiction of alcohol; how can you prove the funding will not go to the American Legion?

Mr. Anderson stated that the funds being requested are for the Tweedy location and not for the American Legion location. Mr. Anderson further stated they have taken precautions to ensure that individuals are not permitted to go into the bar area when meeting with a case manager. Mr. Anderson further stated that all expenses made would be in writing and associated with the Tweedy location and programs.

Chairperson Esquivel expressed concern regarding the age description of 18 -24 as being misleading.

Mr. Anderson stated that this was a HUD definition, but would assist someone younger if necessary.

Committee Member Christina Montalvo stated that she works for a shelter and the age description 18 -24 is for ALL housing programs.

Compator:

Paula Torres, presented for Compator, Inc. Compator provides counseling, mentoring and substance use disorder programs and mental health services. The facility is licensed at a 1.0 and 2.5 by the State of California and the Los Angeles County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control. Compator works with APART Centers in Lynwood that specializes in supervised withdrawal medication management or medication assisted therapy. In this industry, Compator has a zero wait time for assistance. A clinician will assess them and provide services. Ms. Torres stated that the Rental Assistance program will begin on February 1st, and that substance abuse can have an impact on individuals falling behind on rental payments. Compator will also provide Covid testing next week. Compator is seeking \$60,000 to assist at least 12 individuals.

Committee Member Christina Montalvo asked how many individuals were employed at Compator.

Ms. Torres stated that they currently have one medical director and are alternating between two or three employees on site and two more that work remotely via Zoom.

Committee Member Christina Montalvo further asked how many employees worked on the Restoring Hope program.

Ms. Torres stated that the Restoring Hope program was the rental assistance program and there was one employee that will also assist with other services, such as unemployment services like Medical.

Committee Member Christina Montalvo asked if Compator applied for the L.A. Covid-19 Fund grant or the California Covid-19 Fund grant.

Ms. Torres stated that they applied for the Los Angeles County Grant offered through the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for domestic violence, housing and supportive services.

Audience Comments

Mr. Adolfo Varas expressed gratitude for the services offered by Compator and thanked the City for finally recognizing a business that is situated in the community.

Committee Member Virginia Johnson expressed a concern regarding inconsistencies in Compator's application pointing out that application heading was for mental health services, yet on another page it stated it was for rental and utility assistance. Ms. Johnson further stated that Compator has already received a significant amount of funding from the City for the rental and utility assistance program and that Helpline Youth Counseling is an established, well qualified organization – with licensed professionals to do rent and utility assistance services. Ms. Johnson further pointed out that goals and objectives portion of the application (page 73) was left blank. Ms. Johnson asked how much it would cost to train and license a new crew and how will it be sustained through the years.

Ms. Torres requested a breakdown of the questions to be able to respond, however, Committee Member Virginia Johnson stated that they were not questions, but concerns.

Committee Member Norma Mendoza also raised question regarding page 75 of Compator's budget.

Ms. Torres inquired about the level of licensing required to assist someone with "rental assistance". She stated they will not provide clinical staff for rental assistance, but would use a case manager to assist in that area. Ms. Torres further stated that they have never been funded by the City in past. Ms. Torres further stated that the funding received for the previous grants is funding for the residents of South Gate and not for Compator.

Committee Member Julian A. Jarquin thanked Ms. Torres for the services they provide and shared that he is FEMA Federal Agent for mental health worker compliance. He shared the value that they add to the community.

Committee Member Lizette Ruiz asked how many people would be assisted through this program.

Ms. Torres stated that they project 15 to 20, but stated it was dependent on the funding allocated.

Committee Member Jovanna Laborin thanked Ms. Torres for assistance in the past and stated that she was not aware of any type of licensing required to assist people in the rental assistance program.

Committee Member Angelica Martinez asked if there was any connection with Los Angeles Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Ms. Torres stated there was no connection with LACADA, but they did occupy the same building 10 years ago.

Committee Member Jovanna Laborin asked if Compator charges a percentage or fee for processing applications

Ms. Torres stated that they do not charge a fee and the rental assistance program has not even started. They do charge an administrative fee of approximately 10%.

Ms. Dianne Guevara stated that there is no fee charged to process an application or issue a check.

Conservation Corps of Long Beach

The Conservation Corps of Long Beach presentation was made by Irene Lopez-Muro. The Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) is a nonprofit charitable 501 (c) (3) organization and one of 14 State Certified Conservation Corps programs in California. Founded in 1987 the mission of CCLB is to support youth and young adults to achieve their full potential through work, service, conservation, and education. CCLB offers a full array of services for youth and young adults through three major programs: Conservation Programs, job training, paid work experience and occupational skills training; The Education Corps Charter High School, an accredited alternative charter high school; and Corps Member Development, case management, supportive services, and transition to post Corps life. Our primary activities include job training, paid work experience, educational services, case management, support services, life and career preparation, school readiness, vocation and after school activities and non-traditional full-time school. CCLB proposes to hire and train approximately 8 youth crew members (ages 18-25) that are City of South Gate residents to provide greening and park improvement and maintenance projects. The CCLB is seeking \$60,320. Each youth crew member will work approximately 280 hours during a 10-week program and will earn minimum wage (\$14.00 per hour). The CCLB will be responsible for recruitment, hiring paper work, eligibility verification.

At this time, Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel opened the meeting to questions from the audience and Citizen Advisory Committee Members.

No comments.

California Latino Leadership Institute

Lisa Baca presented for The California Latino Leadership Institute. (CLLI) was founded in 2014 as a statewide 501 (c) (3) nonpartisan organization and is a Latino lead, leadership/workforce development organization targeting Southeast Los Angeles youth. The cornerstone of all CLLI's leadership programs is to focus on culturally diverse individuals and create an inclusive environment for learning skills that address: soft skills development, conflict negotiation, team building, workforce employment experience, expanding career/academic mentoring, and the sharing of California's rich diverse history with the many contribution made by Latinos. The Mission of CLLI is to develop diverse and entrepreneurial public, corporate and community leaders to create a better future for California. The Vision of CLLI is to educate, train and prepare leaders who can address challenges facing California, leading to the empowerment of our next generation of leaders.

At this time, Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel opened the meeting to questions from the audience and Citizen Advisory Committee Members.

Elizabeth Torres, Chairperson of the Alumni Association, expressed gratitude for the California Latino Leadership Institute's help and guidance. She stated she would like the opportunity for others to benefit from the program as well.

Committee Member Lizette Ruiz commented on her experience with the organization and how she has benefited from it.

Committee Member Christina Montalvo made comments about the program and how it offers decent jobs to youth, and is not just flipping burgers, especially now during Covid- 19 when jobs are hard to come by.

Lisa Baca made a comment regarding a correction in the budget stating that the Institute will provide \$6,000 for equipment and that the requested amount of \$25,000 will go to payroll for the students – each will receive \$1,000.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

Audience Comments: None

City Staff Comments: Mr. Adams made the committee members aware of several events that were coming up as follows:

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Citizens Advisory Committee, the time being 10:10 p.m., Committee Member Christina Montalvo moved to adjourn, and Committee Member Jovanna Laborin seconded and the motion carried (14-19) to continue the meeting to February 3, 2021. The Citizen Advisory Committee members were polled pursuant to COVID-19 Teleconference Meeting Procedures as follows, with Committee Members Virginia Johnson voting no, Committee Member Benigno Nunez having technical difficulties, and Brigitte Garza Darlene Lopez and Denisse Martinez absent (3/19).

<i>NAME</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>
Chairperson Cyndi Esquivel	Yes		
Committee Member Jimmy Torres	Yes		
Committee Member Marie De Lourdes Castillo	Yes		
Committee Member Janet Cazares	Yes		
Committee Member Candice Esquivel	Yes		
Committee Member Brigitte Garza			Absent
Committee Member Susan F. Janer	Yes		
Committee Member Juliano A. Jarquin	Yes		
Committee Member Virginia Johnson		No	
Committee Member Jovanna Laborin	Yes		
Committee Member Darlene Lopez			Absent
Committee Member Denisse Martinez			Absent
Committee Member Angelica Martinez	Yes		
Committee Member Norma Mendoza	Yes		
Committee Member Christina Montalvo	Yes		
Committee Member Benigno Nunez		No answer	
Committee Member Lizette Ruiz	Yes		
Committee Member Jacqueline Saucedo	Yes		
Committee Member Anthony Zepeda	Yes		

However, because the committee failed to open the meeting up for public comment, that was done at this time.

Dianne Guevara stated the meeting will be continued to next week to hear three additional Public Service applicants and five Non-Public Service applicants.

Committee Member Virginia Johnson stated that Committee Member Norma Mendoza joined the meeting at some unknown time. Ms. Johnson also stated that some of the applicants have experienced technical difficulties and that should not be held against them during the voting.

Committee Member Jovanna Laborin stated that she has received calls from three local business that told her the Chamber had refused to accept applications during the first run because they were not Chamber members. She stated that the Tweedy Mile has also asked if they can also limit the grant awards to Tweedy Mile businesses. She also stated that one of the businesses had difficulty filling out the application because it was in English only.

Committee Member Lizette Ruiz asked about the timeframe for the applications.

Chairperson Esquivel stated that the timeframe was only a few days with a holiday that fell on the Monday that applications were due.

Committee Member Christina Montalvo stated that the timeframe was a week and that the applications were due on the 18th which was a holiday.

Chairperson Esquivel stated that she heard the same thing a few weeks earlier and contacted Paul.

Dianne Guevara clarified that they worked with the Chamber to rectify some of the complaints and that, per HUD guidelines, the applications cannot be limited to members of an organization. Same with the Tweedy Mile. Chamber has received 120 applications and only a handful are Chamber members. The Chamber has confirmed that they are opening it to all eligible businesses. City is providing oversight and only thirty-five grants will be awarded. Still collecting applications for funding received last night by the City Council (Jan. 26, 2021).

Chairperson Esquivel stated that during last council meeting, Council Member Pilar Avalos stated that she does not want any restrictions or caps on the grant awards.

Ms. Guevara stated that each organization will draft their own guidelines according to HUD regulations and the City will review for compliance with CDBG rules.

Committee Member Juliano A. Jolquin asked for clarification on who is making the decisions for how the funding is allocated.

Ms. Guevara stated that only one program has been formally approved and that \$75,000 was recommended for the Tweedy Mile Association to implement a small business grant program, with an additional \$75,000 to the Chamber. But this won't be official until the City Council approves the agreements on February 23, 2021.

Committee Member Juliano A. Jarquin requested further clarification on who selects business to be selected.

Ms. Guevara clarified that the Chamber will select the business and the City will thoroughly review supporting documentation and make out the checks to businesses.

Chairperson Esquivel again inquired about the "cap".

Ms. Guevara stated that the City will review both organizations' guidelines to ensure they meet HUD requirements.

Committee Member Jovanna Laborin expressed concern regarding businesses being told (via letter) that they would

be contacted when addition funding is allocated.

Chairperson Esquivel commented that she heard of a business owner was told that their application would be held for future consideration because they were not a Chamber member.

Ms. Guevara stated that they cannot deny anyone simply because they are not a Chamber member. Ms. Guevara further stated that the City administered the first round of small business funding and that the list was provided to the Chamber for them to contact each business that was not previously selected for further consideration.

Committee Member Christina Montalvo requested clarification regarding the “cap”. If a business did not require the full \$7,500, could that be rolled over to assist another business?

Ms. Guevara stated that, yes, the remaining funds could be used to assist another business.

Committee Member Virginia Johnson requested clarification regarding the Tweedy Mile because, in the past, they were able to secure funding for just Tweedy Blvd. businesses. And now she understands that the funds must be available to all small businesses.

Chairperson Esquivel stated that this particular funding is available to all small businesses that are otherwise eligible. They do not have to be a Tweedy Mile business or a Chamber member.

The meeting was adjourned to February3, 2021.

Respectfully,

Paul Adams, Secretary
Citizens Advisory Committee

APPROVED:

Cyndi Esquivel, Chairperson
Citizen Advisory Committee