



**CITY OF DAVIS
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, October 19, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Community Chambers

23 Russell Blvd.

Davis, CA 95616

Social Services

Commission Members

Present:

Eric Gelber, George T. Hague (Vice Chairperson), Cathy Huff,
Vanessa Robinson (Chairperson), Jan Solorzano,
Dan Wolk

Absent:

Liz Yeh (Alternate)

Council Liaison:

Lamar Heystek, Don Saylor (Alternate)

Staff:

Danielle Foster, Housing and Human Services Superintendent
Elvia Garcia-Ayala, Community Services Director
Patrick Conway, Administrative Analyst II- Housing Programs
Laura Ivans, Child Care Manager

1. Called to Order at 7:01pm.

2. Approval of Agenda.

V. Robinson moved to approve the agenda. C. Huff seconded the motion. The motion passed, unanimously.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes from September 21, 2009 meeting.

V. Robinson moved to approve the minutes. G. Hague seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with D. Wolk abstaining.

4. Public Comment. There were no public comments.

5. Commissioner and Staff Communications:

V. Robinson congratulated D. Wolk on his daughter's first birthday.
C. Huff stated her completion of the Critical Needs Survey. G. Hague requested that future versions of the survey include questions regarding age of the head of householder and informational requests regarding households that include persons with disabilities.

6. Business Items:

A. Child Care Funding Cuts and Program Reductions in Davis and Yolo County.

D. Wolk discussed his interest and questions regarding child care services, particularly locally. He further explained that his interest was peaked by an article stating that there was a current child care crisis in the nation, leading to his request for the discussion by the commission.

Laura Ivans, Child Care Manager from the child care division of Community Services, summarized the services provided by child care services. She further stated that the program is comprised of 25 staff and 14 grants, after a 68% funding cut this year. L. Ivans explained that part of the 68% in funding lost that the services faced this year was from the technical assistance and improvement program that was identified as a local need prior, but has since been addressed to a great extent through city child care staff. The Universal Preschool program within West Sacramento was the second major cut to the program, with the County First Five program reducing both of these funds to the Child Care Services. Staff further explained that subsidies are needed countywide for childcare, with 1559 children on the countywide child care subsidy waiting list, including 334 of those children from Davis.

Commissioner, G. Hague asked why the child care program did not get funding from the stimulus funding.

Other commissioners also asked the following questions.

- Has the City ever provided subsidy to the child care services program? Staff explained that the city did at one time, progressively through in-kind donations, but does not presently.
- Could the University assist with outreach? Staff explained that the University has partnered in the past and still does in some ways, but that they are stretched for resources too.
- Will the reduction in staff hours and funding reduce the number of qualified persons and quality providers in the field?

Staff clarified that the city does not provide direct services. Staff did note that in the field of child care there could be long-term effects on the quality of staff if cutbacks continue for the long-term.

Is the Resource and Referral Program income-based? No, just the subsidy program is income-qualified.

Based on your experience with child care services, are we in crisis? More people acknowledge the need for qualified child care than in the past, so that is progress. There has been an ongoing waiting list for child care funding the entire life of the program. This is a problem throughout the state. The state program of CalWORKS does an excellent job of providing child care so that families are able to train, work, and get stable income. The Commission thanked staff for the information and asked for ways they could further support local child care services. Staff stated appreciation for their support and desire for education, and acknowledged that child care services are an eligible use under Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG), in the very competitive public service category.

B. CDBG and HOME Five-Year Consolidated Plan Community Needs Discussion (Public Hearing).

Staff gave a summary of the purpose and goals of the Consolidated Plan. Further, staff explained survey tools and provided some preliminary results from the survey based on 66 responses to date. Subsequently, the Commission opened the public hearing. There were no public comments so the hearing was closed. Bill Pride with Davis Community Meals submitted written comments about the countywide needs for mental health services, particularly in the face of recent cuts, as well as food and shelter services due to increased unemployment throughout the region. The Commission spoke about interest in getting more details about the kinds of needs being requested within transportation and other broad areas within the survey. Staff pointed out that the comments section can be used to further clarify needs, or the Commission could opt to do a survey to further understand local needs in a specific area. The Commission thanked staff for their work to-date on the survey.

C. Mace Parke Project Funding Request and Final Details.

Staff presented information about the current financing and model change request by Community Housing Opportunities Corporation (CHOC). Stephanie Browning of CHOC responded to questions by the Commission, including a question about providing carports rather than garages in order to increase accessibility. The Commission stated its ongoing goal to provide as much accessibility in projects as possible. There was additional discussion and questions about the viability of the community land trust model. Staff stated that the current lending market has made it more difficult to finance unique projects, particularly ownership units, and staff supports CHOC's request for dropping the land trust model in order to help the project proceed in the current market. Staff also stated its work on getting more information from lenders in follow-up to CHOC's memorandum on financing difficulties of the land trust model, and acknowledged some of the estimated benefits of the model would not actually be provided. After this discussion, D. Wolk moved and G. Hague seconded the staff recommendation that the Redevelopment Agency Board and City Council adopt resolutions that:

1. Approves Mace Parke to proceed as a resale-restricted affordable ownership project with a mixed-use component, yielding non-profit office space for CHOC, not requiring use of a community land trust model;
2. Assumes the previously awarded \$1,214,830 commitment from the City to the project, to be provided from Agency Housing Set-Aside funds.
3. Awards an additional \$1,999,170 of Agency Housing Set-Aside funds to the housing portion of the affordable housing project, for a total project subsidy of \$3,214,000; and
4. Authorizes this subsidy to be provided during construction and forgiven upon permanent financing of the project in order to establish and maintain affordable ownership prices that can be maintained for the long-term.

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Schedule and Workplan

The Commission reviewed the workplan and asked staff about the status of the Draft 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. Staff noted that it was being released soon and added it to the November Agenda. The Commission supported the workplan by consensus.

7. **Adjournment.**

G. Hague moved and V. Robinson seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by

Danielle Foster
Housing and Human Services Superintendent