

**PLANNING COMMISSION
A MEETING OF THE ST. CLAIR SHORES PLANNING COMMISSION
HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M.,
CITY HALL-CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT

Paul Doppke, Chairman
Kathy Hanson, Secretary
Robert Hison
Anthony Stonik
Jeff Mazzenga
Patrick McKay

ALSO, PRESENT

Liz Koto, Planning
Ken Blankenship, CDBG Coordinator
Eric Shepherd, City Attorney
Shantelle Hubbard, Recorder

ABSENT

Ed Jones, Excused
James Kalich, Excused
Lou Schelosky, Vice-Chairman, Excused

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Doppke called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Secretary Hanson called roll. Six members were present.

A motion was made by Secretary Hanson, and seconded by Commissioner Hison, to excuse Commissioner Jones, Kalich and Vice-Chairman Schelosky from tonight's meeting.

A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN:

AYES: ALL

NAYS: NONE

MOTION: PASSED

Chairman Doppke opened the public hearing.

CASE NO. PPC23003: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – CDBG

MCWARM-\$10,000

Mark O'Brien & Abby Doppke were present. This program runs from November to March three days a week, Monday, Tuesday and Friday. They are there for the homeless. They can shower. They can drop off their clothes to get washed and pick them up the next day. They serve 100-120 people on any given day. They get three meals a day. This is done at St. Margaret of

Scotland's gymnasium. They have a barber come in once a week. They have a medical staff. They have health & beauty aids they can choose from. They have books. The program is run entirely off of volunteers and donations. They have about 40-50 volunteers. They have been operating for about 25 years. They only get funding from City of St. Clair Shores and donations. They have fundraisers.

Amelia Agnes Transitional Home-Perfecting CDC-\$20,000

Kara Black – 42960 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights. They are a shelter which services single women or families. They are an around the clock shelter that is open 24/7 7 days a week. The funds cover about 1600 bed/nights, which comes out to be 10 families. They use the United Way per diem of 12.50 per night. It provides emergency shelter, housing stability, educational advancement, economic independence, parenting & life skills, self-actualization, and spiritual growth. On average, they service two to three St. Clair Shores residents meaning they come in for shelter or they house them in St. Clair Shores. They have been existence in for 22 years. They service all clients in all cities across the county. They receive monies from other cities. They get funds from United Way, HUD, MSHDA, private donations, and Perfecting Church.

Turning Point - \$3,000

Tracy Hayden, Director of First Response Advocacy, 22005 Maple, St. Clair Shores. They have been a provider of a safe place for families fleeing from domestic, sexual violence and trafficking. They offer comprehensive confidential programs for survivors. They now have an office in St. Clair Shores. In 2022 they provided service for 262 adults and children where 3 adults and 2 children were residents of St. Clair Shores. They provide immediate safety crisis intervention and resources for families trying to establish basic safety. They appoint two shelter case managers to meet every shelter resident within 24 hours of their arrival. They develop an individual plan based on goals. They work on a plan for safety, housing and financial stability. This plan can include literacy, immigration, credit repair and supportive counseling even after they have left the shelter. Comprehensive services for children are also included. The children get crisis intervention and safety along with tutorial education and daily activities. They run day camp all summer. The funds will cover shelter, meals, basic needs, crisis intervention, case management child care program, advocacy and support. They do get funding from other cities for the CDBG funds. Sterling Heights, Warren, New Haven and other cities. They only go to the cities that they have serviced residents in their communities.

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers – \$1,500

Stacy Conti - 25650 Kelly Rd., Roseville. They service seniors and disabled adults in Macomb, Oakland and St. Clair County. They have been in business for 30 years. They do transportation, housekeeping, home repairs, and visits for loneliness. They do indoor and outdoor chores. In 2022, they serviced 470 clients almost 200 being for the safe at home program. They have completed more than half of the projected amount for safe at home tasks for St. Clair Shores. They are projecting to help 20 St. Clair Shores residents this current program year. They have already helped 14. With the upcoming year they hope to help at least 30. They do apply at all the cities for funding. They don't get funds from some of them or it is very minimal. They don't turn anyone away. Warren, Sterling Heights, Clinton Twp. and St. Clair Shores get funds directly from HUD. The smaller northern communities get funds through Macomb County.

Fair Housing Center of Metro Detroit - \$4,000

The Fair Housing Center receives their CDBG funds from the Administration portion of the CDBG budget, not the Public Service portion. The city is required to have a Fair Housing component to the program. They serve about 4-10 people. They don't charge for the services. They get funds

from HUD and MSHDA as well as other CDBG grants. The training and education and outreach impact virtually everyone in the market. They train with real estate agents, management companies, property owners or anyone that needs training. They do tests of properties and major property complexes. They like to do training that deals with tenant rights and responsibilities. They are not just servicing tenants. They have training seminars for various aspects. They resolve complaints. The point is to get people in compliance. The amount they are asking for is strictly for St. Clair Shores.

Blessing in a Back Pack – Feed the Shores - \$17,150

Vicky Shipman, 27939 Ruehle, ST. Clair Shores, is the chairperson. Renee is the secretary for the program. Feed the shores was established in 2018. They send home 6 meals every Friday throughout the school year to children currently in South Lake School district that qualify for the free lunch program. They delivered through COVID when the schools were shut down and operating virtually. A lot of students opt to give their addresses so they can porch drop the food. About 50% lived in the city. There are 490 students that would qualify in the South Lake District. They service only 130. Statistically, only about half accepts the program. The funds would be able to service the rest of South Lake. Lake Shore elementaries had 769 children that would qualify for the program. Middle school had 345. High school 555. Lakeview has 775 kids in elementaries that would qualify, 489 in middle school and 533 in high school. They don't receive funds any of the other communities. They get personal donations. St. Lucy's lets them use a room free of charge to store their food and do their back packs. Donations can be made on the website.

MCREST - \$6,000

Judy Dudek is the support coordinator. They are an emergency shelter program. They support women and children and men as well. As of last April, they now have a permanent shelter for women and children. They have 46 beds which are bunk beds. They have 10 pack and play or porta cribs for infants under 2 years old. They can have up to 56 women and children in the building. They also support a men's program that has the capacity for 30 men at any given time. They can accommodate the men and children by putting them in a private motel room until they get through the program. Client are provided with three meals a day. They are supported by local churches throughout Macomb County. They have 78 churches that participate that host our women and children program. They can prepare the food in their kitchen or they can bring them prepared. They provide activities, meals and bus tickets for the women that need transportation. They have other transportation if needed. They have six churches in the city of St. Clair Shores. Last year CDBG funds from St. Clair Shores provided \$4,000 and this year they are requesting \$6,000. This would provide 365 shelter nights at 9 dollars a night. Each church would cover about 210 shelter nights. So, it would be 210 people. They cannot do it without the help from the churches and grants. They do receive funds from other cities. They have fundraisers throughout the year. They have private donations.

SCSHA – Hockey Enablement Fund-\$10,000

Andy Dembock, 20000 Stephens. St. Clair Shores Hockey has been around since 1957. They teach kids good life lessons. The last three years the number of kids that have issues that they have not seen before has increased. The hockey association has a player enablement fund that helps low income families or people that have fallen on hard times. They raise funds from the Silver Stick Tournament. This is the 6th or 7th year for the CDBG program. They have 10 to 20 kids that the families apply for. They have their own approval board that goes through all of the applications. They had 12 children that were awarded the funds, 8 were from St. Clair Shores and all of them are Macomb County residents. Last year they received \$5,000. They don't get help from any other communities.

Maggie's Wigs of Michigan - \$3,000

Jennifer Fisher, 30130 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores, they are celebrating their 20th anniversary in St. Clair Shores. Maggie founded the program in 2003 so they can provide support services for children from the age of 3 to 18 at no charge throughout the state of Michigan. These are children that have cancer or other disorders causing hair loss. Since the program started, they helped 5,200 Michigan families. They currently have 24 active families in their program. They have CDBG funds allocated for their wig portion of the program. They are asking for funding for a new programming through virtual reality. About 50% of them have cancer. They are often in the hospital to have their procedures. They provide virtual reality programming to them through the use of headsets where they can watch interactive meditation which would help with their pain management, relaxation and socialization. This is the first city that they are asking for funding for the virtual reality program. It is \$400 for each headset for this program for a child in need. They are helping two St. Clair Shores families. And they will have a social worker on site to manage this program. They have a lot of programs and the children are not charged. Their gardening program is for children to plant herbs and veggies in that space and it teaches them the importance of nutrition.

Champ Life - \$10,000

Nathan Maze, 31700 Couchez, St. Clair Shores. They run a one-week camp. They will take a buddy and pair them up with a child. They are screened and trained. They have over 33 kids in St. Clair Shores that attend the camp. Over 80% of the population are kids that have been in the foster care system at some point in their life. 50% of the kids never finish school. They have many activities for the children. They do a memory book with a photographer for them of all of the activities that they have done. They have never gone to any other cities and ask for CDBG funds. This is the first time that they came here to ask for CDBG funds from us. They get local donations. They do a weekly club at Parker Elementary on Quinn Road. They go to Camp Cavell on Lake Huron north of Lexington. This is the first year they are going to Attica in Michigan.

Macomb County Care House - \$15,000

Doreen Vasquez-Nolan, executive director of Care House in Macomb County child advocacy center. Their main office is located in the City of Mt. Clemens. They have a satellite office that has been open for five years in the city of Warren. They are the only agency in Macomb County that provides comprehensive services for child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, and for children that may have been a witness to a violent act. Their goal is to reduce the trauma that is typically associated with child abuse investigation. They support the child and family through the investigation and prosecution and onto healing. They collaborate with all law enforcements. They offer child abuse training. Families are not charged for any of the services. Care House has coordinated over 10,000 child forensic interviews since 1996 and 569 children were residents of St. Clair Shores. In 2021 they had 728 interviews and 36 were City of St. Clair Shores. In 2022, they had 704 forensic interviews and 46 of them were St. Clair Shores children. In 2023 they already served 8 children. These funds will help 25 qualify children. They get funding from other communities. They only ask for money based on the children that are in need.

www.mccarehouse.org.

Chairman Doppke closed the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2023 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.

A motion was made by Secretary Hanson and supported by Commissioner Hison, to approve the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting.

A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN:

AYES: ALL

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

MOTION: PASSED

REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Secretary Hanson indicated that the beauty salon on Harper, beside being a beauty salon, would like to do tattoos, facials and other services. She will have 12 stations. They are resurfacing the parking lot. Councilman Caron motioned Councilman Frederick seconded and all approved. Memorial parade fundraiser is April 27th.

LIZ KOTO'S STAFF REPORT

Ms. Koto stated that Tony J's will probably be in front of the board in the next couple of months or so for the patio that they already poured. The office at 23415 Jefferson that was approved for an extension to the site plan is probably going to put two four-unit condos on that parcel. For the Masonic and Jefferson parcel owned by the city, there is a letter of intent that is being worked out with the attorney's office. Commission Hison indicated that Monica's Cleaners on Greater Mack has many complaints. Their doors are locked. The phone number on the door is not in service. Ms. Koto indicated that we already received the email stating how much they will be receiving for CDBG funds. They will be ready for the decision-making meeting in two weeks.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Hanson, and supported by Hison, to adjourn the Planning Commission Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN:

AYES: ALL

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: JONES, KALICH, SCHELOSKY.

MOTION: PASSED

[THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD.]