



Cities & Towns Advisory Committee
 Sonoma County Community Development Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
 1440 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
 10:00 a.m. - 12:47 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chair Svanstrom;
 Community Development Commission (CDC) staff initiated the roll call:

Committee Members

Emily Quig – City of Rohnert Park	Present
Kari Svanstrom, Chair – City of Sebastopol	Present
Kevin Thompson – City of Cloverdale	Present
Noah Housh – City of Cotati	Absent
Patrick Streeter, Vice Chair – Town of Windsor	Present
Jennifer Gates – City of Sonoma	Present
Stephen Sotomayor – City of Healdsburg	Present

CDC Staff Present

- Michelle Whitman, Executive Director
- Martha Cheever, Housing Authority Division Director
- Rhonda Coffman, Community Development Division Director
- Valerie Johnson, Community Development Associate
- Veronica Ortiz-De Anda, Community Development Associate
- Laurie Dinwiddie, Community Development Specialist II
- Madison Murray, Senior Community Development Specialist
- Krista Fotou, Affordable Housing Finance Associate
- Matthew Burns, Administrative Aide

2. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

There were no commenters on this item.

3. Approval of September 20, 2023, 2023 and November 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the meeting minutes was continued to the next meeting due to a lack of quorum to approve them.

Public comments: None.

4. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan Funding Recommendations

Valerie Johnson and Veronica Ortiz-De Anda, CDC staff, presented the funding recommendations for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), HOME American Rescue Plan Act program (HOME-ARP), and Low-Moderate Income Housing Asset (LMIHAF) funding program. After the presentation staff answered questions from the committee.

Public comments:

Public comments were made by several applicants regarding their respective funding application and they answered questions from the committee.

Chair Svanstrom expressed her desire to fully fund Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California (FHANC) their full request of \$130,000 CDBG funds and reduce the request of Legal Aid of Sonoma County (Legal Aid) accordingly. Committee member Sotomayor commented on the importance of the services that both organizations provide. The Chair moved to approve the funding recommendations as presented by staff subject to funding FHANC their full request of \$130,000 and thereby reducing the funding recommendations to Legal Aid to \$125,956. Committee Sotomayor seconded. Committee member Streeter asked a procedural question and staff answered. After further discussion, Chair Svanstrom withdrew her motion.

The committee deliberated on the different funding recommendations and designation of a contingency project. CDC staff provided further clarification on the purpose of designating a project as “contingent”.

Committee member Streeter moved to approve the funding recommendations as presented by staff subject to changing the funding recommendation of FHANC to \$130,000 and thereby reducing the funding recommendation to Legal Aid to \$125,956; and designating Burbank Housing’s application for Elderberry Commons as the contingency project instead of Saint Vincent de Paul’s application for Gravenstein Commons Affordable Housing project under the HOME program and was seconded by Committee member Thompson.

Action

Ayes: Emily Quig, Kevin Thompson, Stephen Sotomayor, Jennifer Gates, Patrick Streeter, and Chair Svanstrom

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent: Noah Housh

In each vote, each committee member recused himself or herself from the funding recommendation related to their respective city.

Later it was noted by staff that the funding recommendation was different from that made by the Community Development Committee. The committee decided to change their funding recommendation as follows:

Committee member Streeter moved to approve the funding recommendations as presented by staff subject to designating Burbank Housing's application for Elderberry Commons as the contingency project instead of Saint Vincent de Paul's application for Gravenstein Commons Affordable Housing project under the HOME program and was seconded by Committee member Gates.

Action

Ayes: Emily Quig, Kevin Thompson, Stephen Sotomayor, Jennifer Gates, Patrick Streeter, and Chair Svanstrom

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent: Noah Housh

In each vote, each committee member recused himself or herself from the funding recommendation related to projects in their respective city.

5. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

Due to time constraints, Chair Svanstrom continued the item to a future date.

Public comments:

There was no public comment.

6. Future Agenda Items

Committee member Gates expressed her interest for a staff presentation on the requirements of the HOME-ARP funds and supported for a mid-year funding application period to use these funds.

Public comments: There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.