



COLUMBIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia Community Development Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tina N. Herbert	Chair	Present	
Howard E. Duvall	Member	Present	
Will Brennan	Member	Present	11:14 a.m.

PRESENTATION

1. The Faces of Affordable Housing Video - The Honorable Tina N. Herbert – *This item was deferred.*

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

2. City of Columbia Community Garden Program - Ms. Jacqueline Williams, Program Coordinator & Master Gardener / Parks and Recreation Department – *Received as information.*

Ms. Jacqueline Williams, Program Coordinator & Master Gardener / Parks and Recreation Department presented the city's Community Gardening Program. The program started in the Community Development Department in the spring of 2011 but now resides with the Parks & Recreation Department. Its goals are to make it easier for citizens to grow fresh produce, encourage healthy lifestyles, and bring awareness to the consequences of childhood obesity. All of the gardens are on city owned or operated property. We offer workshops, resources and various partnerships throughout the city.

Reverend Eric E. Fink, Senior Pastor of Living Springs Lutheran Church said More Justice represents 27 congregations who are trying to affect positive change in policies and procedures to make the city a more just place for everyone. One of our focus areas is food insecurity to include the proposed mobile market and how that can grow into a sustainable program and the use of publicly owned resources for local food initiatives. How can we get the data that relates to who is getting the food and how many people are food insecure and taking advantage of the program for that particular purpose?



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Councilor Herbert said I don't know if you will get that type of data since that's not how we initially purposed community gardens. We would have to start collecting that type of data.

Mr. Randy Davis, Director of Parks and Recreation Department said we have to identify the communities that are impacted by food insecurities and begin to develop community garden concepts in those communities. The focus is on gardening, nutrition, and fitness.

Councilor Duvall suggested combining the goals of More Justice and the Parks and Recreation Department. You've got 27 churches involved. Come up with a congregation that's willing to do the work and give the food to the people that need it. We will help you find a spot.

Ms. Missy Gentry, Assistant City Manager of Development Services requested a one page document from More Justice about their vision for a pop up market.

Councilor Herbert suggested that More Justice connect with the Food Policy Committee for additional information.

3. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Update - Ms. Missy Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager for Development Services – *Received as information.*

Ms. Dollie Herron, Community Development Administrator provided a list of activities that happened during National Community Development Month which began on March 30, 2023 with the Columbia Clean-up initiative. Timeliness is an annual test of the city's Community Development Block Grant Program with HUD. As of today, we are timely. The 2023 Annual Action Plan is done in conjunction with the consolidated five year plan. The sources of entitlement that we expect to receive for the program year are CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) at \$2.3 million, HOME Investment Partnership Program at \$1.4 million, and HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) at \$1.8 million. The focus this year was on homeless recovery. We partnered with organizations and public service agencies to support Rapid Shelter Columbia. The HOPWA program supports six counties and we received an increase due to a modification to the formula, reflecting the longer lifespan of individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The ongoing public comment period ends on May 5, 2023 and we will submit this draft plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.



We Are Columbia

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Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk