



**COLUMBIA HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Aditi Bussells, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Aditi Bussells	Chair	Present
Howard E. Duvall	Member	Present
Edward H. McDowell	Member	Present

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Senior Resources - Lourie Center Unification Proposal - The Honorable Will Brennan, Ms. Heather Bauer, State Representative and Mr. Andrew Boozer, Executive Director of Senior Resources – *Endorsed for City Council Consideration.*

Councilor Brennan announced that the seed money was provided by the state, thanks to Representative Heather Bauer. This funding will assist the Lourie Center with deferred maintenance and support the City's health and wellness programs for individuals ages 55 and over.

Representative Heather Bauer, House District 75 discussed her charge with working with local councils and securing the \$250,000 in the South Carolina budget for the Senior Resources Lourie Center Unification Project. Our role as governing bodies at any level is to help serve as a safety net for many populations including our seniors. More than a quarter of the seniors they support are under 200% of the national poverty level.

Mr. Andrew Boozer, Executive Director of Senior Resources highlighted the advantages of designating the Lourie Center as the central hub for older adults in our community. By establishing the Lourie Center as the focal point, it could also extend its services to other underserved communities. We are progressing well towards the completion by August 1, 2023. With the city's support, an associate membership program targeting citizens age 55 and above is now available.



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There was a discussion about the direction of funds; revenue streams; collaboration with Richland County; and ARPA funding.

There was consensus to forward this information to City Council for the July 18, 2023 meeting.

2. Update on Rapid Shelter Columbia and Homeless Services - Ms. Kameisha Heppard, LMSW, Homeless Services Director – *Received as information.*

Ms. Kameisha Heppard, LMSW, Homeless Services Director reported that Rapid Shelter Columbia has been operational since November 1, 2022 and currently accommodates 41 participants. Most referrals come from the Richland County Public Library, which has on-site social workers, as well as from CPD, MIRCI, Transitions, and the Department of Social Services. She provided demographic details, highlighting that the majority of residents are older adults. Each resident works with a case manager to develop a personalized plan while aiming for permanent housing. Additional data included the number of veterans in the program, as well as employment and Social Security statuses. Case managers address gaps in services for residents.

There was discussion about reimbursement for veterans, follow-up after graduating from Rapid Shelter services, and high refusal rates.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we will be bringing contracts for reconstructed partnerships with the shelter to this committee.

Councilor McDowell asked for updates on Rapid Shelter Columbia to be a permanent part of the committee's agenda.

3. Resolution No.: R-2023-053 - Incorporate Energy Efficiency (EE) Measures and Power All City of Columbia, South Carolina Municipal and City Owned and Operated Investments and Infrastructures with the Generation of an Additional 75 MW of Energy from Non-Combustion Based Renewable Sources (NCBRS) by 2036 – Mr. Bob Petrulis, Chairman of CPAC (Climate Protection Action Committee) – *Endorse for City Council Consideration.*

Mr. Bob Petrulis, Chairman of CPAC explained how they examined the proposed resolution, identified an action plan, and replaced “whereas” clauses with bullet points and clarified some wording. This resolution adds concrete steps to the original 2017 resolution.



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There was discussion about clarifying language, an updated proposal, and procurement goals for the hydroplant.

There was consensus to forward this information to City Council for the July 18, 2023 meeting.

4. Update on EPA Grant – Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator – *Received as information.*

Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator said the last time we were here, we had just become eligible for a million dollar Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The Council of Governments will take the lead and we formed a great coalition. The next step is to hire someone to help the COG with pulling everything together.

There was discussion about awarding funds and a timeline for developing a plan.

5. Update on LEED for Cities Certification – Ms. Clara Lotz, Intern for the Public Works Department – *Received as information.*

Ms. Clara Lotz, Intern for the Public Works Department presented an update on the City's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification. Columbia is the first LEED-certified city in the state of South Carolina and one of only 15 cities certified this year. The significance of the LEED Gold certification was highlighted, including its positive impact on the city's environmental efforts and its potential to attract more businesses and residents.

There was consensus of the committee to schedule a presentation for the July 18, 2023 City Council meeting and explore options for marketing and recognition.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk