

MEETING MINUTES
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (HCDC)

December 9, 2015
Fresno City Hall, Room 2165-A (2nd Floor)
2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, California 93721

Commission Members Present:

Bob Farrar, Chairperson
Barbara Fiske, Vice Chairperson
Barry Falke, Commissioner
Brad Hardie, Commissioner

Commission Members Absent:

Staff Members Present:

José Trujillo, Manager Housing and
Community Development Division
Jennifer K. Clark, AICP, HDFP,
Director Development and Resource
Management Department
Thanh Nguyen, Project Manager

Staff Members Present:

Tracy Parvanian, Deputy City Attorney III,
City Attorney's Office
Susie Williams, Recording Secretary

Staff Members Absent:

Bonnie Christian, Recording Secretary

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bob Farrar at 5:02 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. All commissioners were present.

C. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Falke made a motion to approve the Agenda of December 9.

SECONDED: Commissioner Hardie

AYES: Chair Farrar, Vice Chair Fiske, and Commissioners Falke and Hardie

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of October 28, 2015 to be approved.

MOTION: Commissioner Hardie made a motion to approve the minutes of October 28.

SECONDED: Vice Chair Fiske

AYES: Chair Farrar, Vice Chair Fiske, and Commissioners Falke and Hardie

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. Minutes of November 3, 2015 to be approved.

There was discussion regarding the words "Discussion was held off the record," that were included in the November 3 minutes.

MOTION: Vice Chair Fiske made a motion to table the minutes of November 3 until there is clarification from the recording secretary, Bonnie Christian, who was not present at this meeting.

SECONDED: Commissioner Falke

AYES: Chair Farrar, Vice Chair Fiske, and Commissioners Falke and Hardie

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

F. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1. Recommend approval of Emergency Solutions Grant funding to the following: Marjaree Mason Center; the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission; the Fresno Housing Authority for HMIS; the Poverello House; City of Fresno administrative costs; WestCare California; and authorize City Manager to execute agreements.

Mr. Thanh Nguyen, Project Manager for Housing and Community Development Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, gave a presentation, explaining what the ESG Program is and the objectives: 1) To engage homeless individuals and families living in the streets; 2) To provide emergency shelter; 3) Assistance in rapid rehousing; 4) Provide case management. The four applicants this year to support the ESG Program are the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, the Marjaree Mason Center, WestCare California, and the Poverello House. He described what the funds for each facility as well as administration will be used for.

Marcus Martin, the Director of Finance for the Marjaree Mason Center, described what the Marjaree Mason Center will be using the ESG funds for.

Mr. Joe Martinez, the Community Relations Outreach Manager with Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Youth Services, spoke regarding assistance they provide to families, individuals, including the chronically homeless, and veterans, with Emergency Solutions Grant dollars. He explained what the funds will be used for.

Sara Mirhadi, Director of Program Development at the Poverello House, spoke, stating that Executive Director Cruz Avila was also present. Sara described their programs and how they assist individuals and families with funds provided, and answered questions for commissioners. Discussion ensued with City staff, Poverello staff, and commissioners.

Ms. Doreen Eley, Manager of Homeless Services for Fresno Housing Authority, and serves on the Executive Committee of FMCoC, spoke, stating that the Fresno Housing Authority is the lead agency for the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care and the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS). She explained how processes work regarding what HUD requires, and described what their organization does with the City and other organizations. There was discussion regarding how the organizations are chosen to receive funds from the NOFA.

Chair Farrar asked if there were any public comments.

Ms. Brunette Harris with H.E.A.T. for Southwest Fresno Community, and a member of District Three, spoke. She expressed that she would like to see the proposals prior to City Council passing them.

Chair Farrar closed the public comment period.

MOTION: Commissioner Hardie made a motion to accept staff's recommendation to the City Council regarding Item F-1 as set forth on the staff report.

SECONDED: Commissioner Fiske

AYES: Chair Farrar, Vice Chair Fiske, and Commissioners Falke and Hardie

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. WORKSHOP – Housing Element Update (No Commission Action will be taken on this item.)

Ms. Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager with the City of Fresno, introduced herself and stated that the Housing Element will expire at the end of this year, and the City has until April to complete the update. She explained the Housing Element process.

Richard Salinas with Community Revitalization wanted to put on the record that he was present if Spanish interpreting was needed.

Ms. Pagoulatos gave a PowerPoint presentation, describing the Housing Element intake process, taking public input, and they've hired M.I.G. Consulting, who has expertise in public outreach. She stated the Housing Element is a state mandated planning document for housing. It is one of seven required elements in the General Plan. She explained the consequences if the Housing Element is not adopted on time, one of which is the City scoring lower funds for housing projects, and another is they would have to go on a four-year cycle. She went over the four components to the housing element content: needs assessment; constraints to housing development; resources and sites inventory; and progress toward implementing previous housing element. She described what affordable housing is, stating that a household is secured if paying no more than 30 percent of its annual income for housing, which includes taxes, insurance, and utilities. It is cost burdened when it's paying more than 30 percent of its annual income on housing. She explained state income

thresholds, affordable housing cost, other housing needs, as well as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). She went over the strategic direction for future growth, illustrating the General Plan land use, and touched on housing discrimination being illegal.

Discussion regarding the PowerPoint information followed.

Chair Farrar closed the workshop.

Ms. Jennifer Clark, Director of Development and Resource Management Department, stated that there is a study being done through a consultant to perform the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, which will begin in December, and the survey should be available to the public on line within the next two weeks, for about three months. Discussion continued.

G. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

None.

H. UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Brunette Harris spoke regarding the forum that was held in her community, stating the consultant had an hour glass and gave everybody a minute to speak. She believes that City personnel and the Commission are not listening to the residents in the community, and they're not getting any justice. She said they will take it to HUD.

Mr. Francisco Mendez spoke regarding his living in a Habitat for Humanity home, and said he sees a lot of people who do not have a social security number and have no home. He sees discrimination among a lot of people regarding housing because of their color and they don't speak English. He commented that he believes Fresno needs more parks and community centers.

Ms. Michaelyn Lewis from Southwest Fresno spoke, stating that Fresno is not that pedestrian friendly. People who live in business districts should be able to walk and have a cup of coffee. The residents need places where they will feel like a community. Fresno needs to be more cohesive in the way it's designed, thoroughfares should be where people can drive safely through.

Chair Farrar asked if there were any informational items.

I. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the Housing and Community Development Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

The next scheduled Commission meeting is on **January 13, 2016.**

Bob Farrar, HCDC Chairperson

José Trujillo, Manager Housing and
Community Development Division