



City of Chicopee, Massachusetts

ARPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES 1/24/2023

Attendance:

J. Vieau, G. Balakier, K. Donahue, M. Laflamme, K. Lingenberg, S. Riley, L. Sanders,

Excused: Liz Batista, S. Kulig, M. Pise, J. Tillotson

I. Mayors Update

The Mayor overviewed the sessions he had attended relative to ARPA at the US Conference of Mayors. He shared that there was much discussion about various projects and eligibilities. The most relevant information related to the expansion of eligibility, to be more consistent with CDBG regulations. The Mayor also shared that he was pleased to see that our process had been consistent with the identified Best Practices, specifically a community survey. Many of the larger communities had retained 3rd party administrators due to the complexity of the program and reporting; the Mayor was pleased that we were able to save those costs and administer the funds with our existing staffing.

The Mayor asked Councilor Balakier if there was any information shared at the Mass Mayors Association meeting. Councilor Balakier replied that there was not but that he did want to mention the "Safe Streets" initiative of DOT which while not immediately ARPA relevant was a significant effort. The Mayor shared that DOT had contacted the city to offer assistance in furthering a safe streets program.

II. Minutes Approval

Motion by M. Laflamme, 2nd by S. Riley to accept the minutes as presented in the meeting packet. All in favor.

III. ARPA Administration

M. Laflamme reported that the ARPA quarterly report for 12.31.22 would be submitted through the federal portal later this week – prior to the reporting deadline. M. Laflamme reminded the members that the Project Summary with project level detail was included within their Board packet.

K. Lingenberg added that all parties with responsibility of reporting on projects had supplied their quarterly reports. This is critical as those reports must be posted on the City's ARPA website.

IV. Projects/Proposals

DPW Matching Funds- Request within the packet for the required matching funds to Congressional earmark. Motion by M. Laflamme, 2nd by L. Sanders to allocate the necessary funds to the Nitrogen Reduction project. All in favor.

Non-Profit Program- Request within the packet for funding to Harmony House for \$25,000 to make capital improvements necessary for air quality and to support operating cost. Motion by L. Sanders, 2nd by K. Lingenberg to award \$25,000 to Harmony House. All in favor.

ChicopeeWORKS- Request within the packet from the Human Resources Department. Discussion around eligibility with a final determination that the program would not be eligible.

Prior Proposal Update

Bellamy House- K. Lingenberg reported that testing both structural and environmental was ongoing. She hoped to have a realistic rehab budget before the committee at some point soon. She also shared that the loosening of ARPA regulations meant that this project could be ARPA eligible as CDBG has an eligibility under Historic Preservation.

Economic Development- K. Lingenberg reported the survey had identified that many small businesses were unaware of existing state and federal resources. A series of webinars on those resources were to be provided.

Delta Park Infrastructure- No update

V. New Business

Discussion about opportunities to support non-profit agencies that had greatly expanded services, such as Lorraine's Mobile Pantry. Kathleen to follow up to see if CDBG or ARPA funds are most appropriate.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 9AM (subject to verification of availability)