

MEETING SUMMARY

REDMOND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Monday, January 9, 2023 - 6:30 pm

1. Call to Order

Commissioners present: Rachid, Kathleen, Anny, Vibhas, Marilyn, Jung, Arisha

Staff present: Brooke Buckingham, Alaric Bien

2. Meeting Summary: November 14, 2022 meeting summary approved by universal acclamation.

3. Items From the Audience: none

4. 2023 Commission Chair and Vice Chair

Janet will be joining the board of Hopelink (as well as the Together Center) and will no longer be eligible to serve on the Commission. Many thanks were expressed for her participation and leadership on the Commission these past three and a half years.

Anny nominated Rachid for 2023 Commission Chair; Kathleen seconded. He was unanimously approved.

Anny nominated Kathleen for 2023 Commission Vice Chair; Janet seconded. She was unanimously approved. Congratulations!

5. Diversity Equity and Inclusion

Commission viewed a short video on what makes a welcoming and inclusive community and discussed the commission's role in fostering belonging in Redmond.

- Work must start from within. How can we have really frank, open conversations? Start with each other on commission.
- Invite organizations that are led by BIPOC people, especially ones we struggled to fund. Assume we're missing something rather than that they didn't present their case in the right way.
- Invite clients of BIPOC organizations to come and talk about what it feels like to live in and work in Redmond or try to get services.
- Make a personal commitment to find places where you challenge yourself with a diversity of opinions and experiences.
- Be careful of objectifying clients and asking agencies to do extra uncompensated work.

- Work against individual assumptions/biases regarding agencies.
- Ask organizations how they identify issues in their community, how do they prioritize what is needed for the community?
- Explore what the public thinks or feels about individual organizations? One strategy may be client satisfaction surveys.
- Can we go to the organizations or their clients instead of asking them to come to us? Consider using the new Together Center space.

6. 2023 Work Plan

Reviewed draft work plan started last year, emphasizing learning more about individual agencies, especially those that were not funded, focusing on the proper amount needed and rationale for human services funding, and continuing training opportunities on equity.

Commission discussed inviting both individual agencies to present, as well as panels focusing on specific topic areas such as mental health, or its underlying issues such as isolation for the community.

7. 2023-24 Unallocated Funds

Commission reviewed the memo outlining options for expending the balance of 2023-24 Council awarded funds (approximately \$70,000). Anny moved to fully fund the four programs recommended for funding should additional resources become available in the review of 2023-24 applications; Janet seconded. Commission unanimously approved using the unspent 2023-24 funds and making up the shortfall with underspent funds from the 2021-22 cycle. Awards will be made to:

Crisis Connections - Crisis Line	\$10,400
Hopelink - Employment	\$33,000
Hopelink - Family Development	\$23,700
NAMI Eastside - Mental Health Education & Support Programs	<u>\$23,000</u>
	\$90,100

8. Commissioner & Staff Updates

- Janet highly recommended that Commissioners tour the Together Center. Contact Janet via personal email if interested.
- Brooke announced that the old Silver Cloud Inn in Overlake, which was purchased by King County for Health Through Housing permanent supportive housing, has moved its last refugees to other sites and is now undergoing renovations. A good neighbor agreement will be made with the City to address community concerns, and a safety plan will be reviewed and approved by Redmond Police.

9. Round Robin

- Let Janet request notification of when the Commission will be speaking to Council about funding. She urges everyone to continue to push themselves on biases and not be afraid of the uncomfortable conversations.
- Arisha stated that she is going to take Janet's advice to heart and speak up more.

10.Adjourn

Vibhas moved to adjourn at 8:18; Kathleen seconded. Motion unanimously approved.