



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 16th, 2023, MINUTES
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
MEETING held on August 16th, 2023, at 1:30pm in Council Chambers.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair, Sandy Griffis called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT	STAFF PRESENT
Sandy Griffis; Vice Chair	Michael McInnes, CDBG Program Coordinator
Janie Evans	Chelsea Walton, Interim Community Development Director
Deborrah Miller	
Deborah Savoini	Absent Members: Mary Ann Suttles
Tom Benson	
Jon Rocha	

III. REGULAR ITEMS

A. Approve the minutes of the July 19th, 2023, CAC meeting – A motion to approve these minutes was made by Deborrah Miller, seconded by Janie Evans and approved 6-0.

B. Discussion & Possible Action Regarding a Funding Increase to Prescott Cares Economic and Homeowner Assistance Program.

Mr. McInnes presented on the item and clarified that Prescott Cares Program and Minor Home Repair Program are different programs. Today's item focuses only on Prescott Cares Economic and Homeowner Assistance Program.

The Prescott Cares Program limited applicants to \$5,000.00 total aid for Covid-19 related economic stressors. Aid could be in the form of household mortgage/rent/utility assistance, or financial support towards a Prescott small business.

Vice Chair Griffis opened discussion to the Committee.

Tom Benson favors increasing funding from the \$5,000.00 cap amount if there is a need present.

Janie Evans favors increasing from \$5,000 to \$8,000.

Deborah Miller is open to either the increase to \$8,000 or \$10,000 but would like to hear input from Sheri Heiney.

Mr. Rocha would like to hear from Sheri Heiney regarding increase and how much that should be.

Vice Chair Griffis supports an increase but would like to hear from Sheri Heiney as well.

Vice Chair recognizes Sheri Heiney, Prescott Chamber of Commerce and Administrator of Prescott Cares Program.

Sheri Heiney suggested for businesses, the \$10,000 cap would be more appropriate.

Jon Rocha asked how about the allocation of funds for households versus small businesses.

Sheri Heiney stated it was about 50/50 between aid households and small businesses.

Jon Rocha asked what was the typical situation for an individual household to request grant aid?

Sheri Heiney responded that some had lost their jobs, while others caught Covid and were not able to work anymore.

Jon Rocha asked Sheri Heiney her assessment about businesses not applying due to the low amount of funding.

Sheri Heiney estimated about a dozen businesses felt the effort to apply versus the low amount of funding not worth it and, therefore, did not apply.

Deborah Miller stated she would be open to raising household assistance to \$8,000 due to increased cost of living expenses.

Deborah Savoini asked if Prescott Cares aid could be used for current Covid outbreaks.

Mr. McInnes responded in the affirmative and explained that HUD has been working on allowing more flexibility with CDBG-CV funding. Prescott Cares could be used as aid for current/future pandemics (not just Covid) and local disaster emergencies.

Vice Chair Griffis asked if "long-Covid" would fall under the Prescott Cares aid parameters?

Mr. McInnes responded that it would.

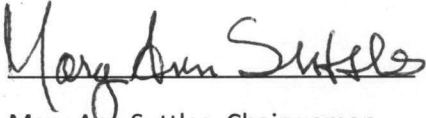
Deborah Miller moved to make a motion to increase CDBG-CV funding from \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00 for the Prescott Cares individual household aid and increase funding from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for Prescott Cares small business aid. Jon Rocha seconded. Motion passes 6-0

IV. UPDATES

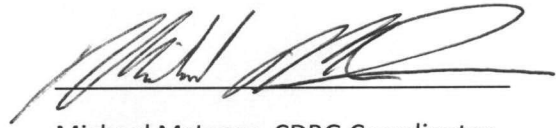
Mr. McInnes reports no updates on the Minor Home Repair Program. Needs Workshop scheduled for October. Ribbon cutting ceremony for Community Nature Center ADA trail was a success.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Member Rocha. The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Griffis at 2:05 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mary Ann Suttles", written over a horizontal line.

Mary Ann Suttles, Chairwoman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael McInnes", written over a horizontal line.

Michael McInnes, CDBG Coordinator