

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2018



Full Members Present:

Scott Wolf, Chair
Peter Doeringer, Vice Chair
Megan Meirav
Sonia Parisca
Barney Heath, Director of Planning & Development, *ex officio*

Staff Present:

Rachel Powers, Community Development Programs Manager

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Barney Heath
Director
Planning & Development

Rachel Powers
CD Programs Manager
Planning & Development

Members

Scott Wolf, Chair
Peter Doeringer, Vice Chair
Barney Heath, *ex officio*
Megan Meirav
Sonia Parisca
Chris Steele

1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459
T 617/796-1120
F 617/796-1142

www.newtonma.gov

1. Action Item: Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2018 meeting

Chair Wolf opened the meeting at 7:34 p.m. The motion was made by Vice Chair Doeringer and Seconded by Chair Wolf, and approved 4-0-1, with Ms. Parisca abstaining, to approve the minutes of January 16, 2018.

2. Action Item/Vote: Approval of Substantial Amendment to Newton's FY18 Annual Action Plan

a. Revision to FY18 Emergency Solutions Grant Allocations

Housing and Community Development Division staff Ms. Powers presented a proposal to allocate supplemental FY18 ESG funds received by the City. Based on HUD's initial award allocations, the City of Newton originally distributed \$156,875 in FY18 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funds through an RFP process to 5 non-profit human service agencies. However, further HUD notification indicated the City would receive an additional \$118,197 in ESG funding, bringing the total ESG award to \$275,072. She explained that Division staff consulted with local contingent of the former Brookline-Newton-Waltham-Watertown (BNWW) Continuum of Care (CoC) on how best to distribute these unexpected funds. Ms. Powers noted an emerging need for emergency shelter rehabilitation and accessibility improvements.

Staff outlined the following recommendations:

- **\$102,293 Emergency Shelter Services**, with a priority towards shelter rehabilitation and accessibility improvements. Funding is proposed to be distributed between The Second Step and REACH, Inc., who appear to have the greatest need at this point in time.

- **\$3,519 Homelessness Prevention**, funding is proposed to be allocated to Brookline Community Mental Health Center to address the continued need for homelessness prevention.

- **\$3,519 Rapid Re-Housing**, funding is proposed to be allocated to The Second Step to address the continued need for rapid re-housing assistance.

Chair wolf inquired into the process of identifying needs and how the distribution of funds was determined in lieu of issuing an RFP. Ms. Powers indicated that the need was identified through shelter inspections by the Division construction manager and discussion with the local ESG shelters. While an RFP would typically be issued, timing is of the essence in the expenditure of these funds.

Vice Chair Doeringer also expressed concerns, preferring to see funding allocated through an RFP toward direct services. He indicated that the most persuasive element of the recommendation was that most of the agencies were there at the table for the allocation discussion.

Dir. Heath mentioned wanting to avoid spending issues and reiterated the need to be timely in expenditures.

Vice Chair Doeringer proposed an amendment, that following the completion of rehabilitation needs, that any leftover funding would be added to the following year's RFP.

The motion was moved by Chair wolf, seconded by Ms. Meirav, and approved 5-0-0 to accept the Division's recommendations for the allocation of supplemental ESG funding, with Vice Chair Doeringer's amendment.

3. Next Meetings

Staff member Ms. Powers discussed the timeline for upcoming meetings and confirmed the availability of Board members. ZAP Meetings are currently scheduled for 7:00PM on Feb 12th and March 26th. There could be potential conflicts in achieving a quorum with the regularly scheduled March 5th meeting. The Board is currently awaiting new members.

4. Action Item: Adjournment

Upon a motion by Vice Chair Doeringer, seconded by Chair Wolf and unanimously passed 5-0-0, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.