

Minutes Covid Response Task Force Blue Ribbon Committee Meeting- August 9, 2022 @ noon

Attendees: Karen Conard, Andrea Ardito, Kathy Beebe, Linda Briolat, Abbie Frank, Whitney Brown, Nancy Brown, Tania Marino, Lori Waltz, Meme Wheeler, Janet Laatsch, Will Arvelo, Amber Buttermore, Molly Wilson

Guests: Jane Ferrini, Assistant City Attorney and Kim McNamara, Health Officer

1. Call to Order- 12pm Kathy Beebe, Co-chair
2. Introductions-Attendees introduced themselves
3. Approval of the Minutes-Janet made the motion to approve, Will seconded, all in favor
4. Review Public Meeting Guidelines-Karen will make sure the Right to Know/public meeting guidelines get to everyone and reviewed them at the meeting
5. Update on ARPA Eligible- Jane presented information on ARPA funds. Basically, these funds are meant to make communities whole as a result of the pandemic. Four broad areas:
  - a. Public Sector Revenue Loss-\$10M spent in this category and doesn't have to be attributed to directly to covid.
  - b. Public Health/negative Economic Impact- This area has to be linked to covid.
  - c. Premium Pay
  - d. Water/Sewer/Broadband

Will asked whether or not this committee would be responsible for compliance of the ARPA spending. Jane responded no. Tania asked about whether there is a prior approval by the Federal Government, Jane responded no. Karen mentioned that spending of any ARPA dollars must hold a public hearing with an explanation of how it follows ARPA guidelines. Tania asked if the money has to physically be distributed by 12/31/26. Karen confirmed that. Will asked a question regarding recommendations to City Council for spending the money by this task force, Karen confirmed that. \$5.4M is unobligated and \$2.8 of that is not under the bucket of lost revenue. Will mentioned that the \$5.4M could go down as discussed at the last meeting. Karen confirmed this. Kathy asked if the decisions to spend the money are made on a rolling basis. Karen said, some of the money has been spent this way and the council also wants to see a holistic approach. Meme asked if it was a conflict of interest if some of the members of this task force applied for funds. Jane mentioned if a proposal comes to vote, the representative of the agency who applied for funds would need to make the decision of whether or not recuse themselves from the voting. Will asked that if there are emergency needs identified in the community could they be brought to the task force for consideration. Karen mentioned that the first step would be to reach out to Councilor Bagley.

Refer to PowerPoint

6. Community Health Needs Assessment-Kim McNamara presented. Refer to PowerPoint. Highlighted on addressing systemic public health and economic challenges- child care and workers, children that are intellectually disabled, arts and sports opportunities for children and other areas were mentioned and affected by Covid. The City has heard from non-profits up to \$2.6M but not all non-profits have submitted their needs to the City. Will asked if the survey

would be sent out to all residents of the City. This will not happen Kim stated. Tania asked how the RFP was sent out. Kim said the RFP was sent out to agencies that have the expertise in doing needs assessment/community profiles. The health department has asked that \$3M be set aside until the community needs assessment is completed.

Will commented that would be useful if Kim came back once some of the data is collected to continue to inform this process.

7. Other Presentations/Information/Subcommittees-Brainstorm on what other information we might need before diving into the details of what we need in the community. Tania mentioned that subcommittees were mentioned due to the time sensitivity. Kathy replied that we wanted to gather general information first and then talk about subcommittees. Karen said that subcommittees would need to report out to the larger group. Subcommittees should be under a quorum of the larger task force. In December (2 dates) we will report to the Council about some recommendations to the Council. Will mentioned that he would benefit hearing Sean Clancy speak about economic development and how that plays into public health. Whitney asked if we should look at what the Master plan of the city. Karen said the last time the master plan was updated was in 2015. The most recent capital improvement plan is something we should look at. Kathy asked if we want to schedule September 13<sup>th</sup> on our schedule and possibly the 27<sup>th</sup>.
8. Public comment-no members
9. Motion to adjourn- Will, Tania seconded, all in favor.