



Board Minutes4/18/2023

Attendees: Julian Miller, Chair; Jimmy Smith, Incoming Chair; Toby Brown, Secretary; Jennifer Dulong, Director; Tom Taylor, Board Member; Nelle Bordeaux, Board Member; Darnell Johnson , Board Member: Valerie Rosas, Office Manager.

I. Welcome (Julian Miller, Chair)

a. Invocation – By Nelle Bordeaux

II. Minutes:

Minutes were not available for the previous meeting; Valerie Rosas explained upon questioning by Darnell Johnson, that the recording of the previous meeting had failed and no notes were taken. Julian Miller suggested sending brief minutes with final actions the day after the meeting and attaching the recording of the meeting in the future. Jenn will work with staff to get them completed and sent out.

III. CSAH current Financials

The P&L and Balance Sheet prepared by Janet Kniss were distributed but many of the items were confusing. Jennifer Darsey will ask for additional information in future reports.

a. Grant updates/interviews and appropriations meetings (Jenn Dulong)

Jennifer Dulong announced a \$2.2 MM request for US Senate funds had been elevated for consideration by Sen. Raphael Warnock’s staff (with no guarantees of funding) and a similar request for Sen. John Ossoff had not yet received a response.

Julian Miller and Nelle Bordeaux offered to contact Cong. Buddy Carter’s office to ask if any additional information might be helpful in a similar request through that office.

The funding would go towards covering the \$2.2 MM obligation to fund the building of the fourth and final phase of the Cove at Dundee (Tiny House) Project and a 40-building project next door to it.

- b. **Audit:** Preparations are underway to conduct the annual Audit by Mike Cannady.

IV. **Board Structure/ Membership**

- a. **Appointee updates**

This discussion was delayed until the next meeting because Jennifer Davenport, who is leading the effort had a scheduling conflict and was unable to attend. Darnell Johnson, who is on the committee with Ms. Davenport asked that the discussion be scheduled at the next meeting.

V. **CSAH Lead Agency - Interagency Council on Homelessness (Jenn Dulong)**

- a. **Point in time count (PIT)**

Jennifer Darsey went over the results of the Point in Time Count (attached to these minutes) and explained that she is confident this is the most accurate count we have ever had because of the technology involved, 100 volunteers (many from Savannah State University) and collaboration with the other agencies. Julian Miller pointed out that this gives us the most accurate count but, unfortunately, interferes with comparisons to previous years because of the changing methodology, some of which has been required by HUD through the years.

- b. **CSAH to host Cloudburst training scheduled for the general membership of the ICH/CoC- Equal Access - April 19th and 20th**
- c. **Coordinated Entry update.**

Jenn Dulong reported that Kashima Nelson has taken over the Coordinated Entry program and successfully housed 49 people over the last two months.

IIV. **Housing Development updates (Jenn Dulong)**

- a. **Veteran's Tiny Homes 12 new homes under development**

Foundations are being poured for the final 12 tiny houses and Tom Taylor estimated the houses should be completed in three months. He and Jenn Dulong praised the work of the builder KJ Construction, Mr. Kenny Jinks. They also discussed problems with previous work done to foundations that the builder has resolved with unusual speed.

b. Colonial Dames Garden update

c. Home Depot project April 25th- Press release (Home Depot Foundation)

These two projects were working together to improve the look of the Cove at Dundee creating intentional outdoor space, a community wildflower garden and walking path. The Colonial Dames along with designated donor funds previously received- have contracted with KJ Construction for the building of the outdoor chapel/pavilion. Architectural drawing and bid for construction are complete.

d. Cottages at Dundee update

The Cottages – 38 larger “Tiny Homes” designed for families, a caretaker’s cottage and an assembly hall – will be constructed by the city and then sold to CSAH as part of the \$2.2 MM project mentioned above.

e. Medically fragile shared housing opportunity (Cuyler Brownsville) partnership with Landbank Authority, CHSA and Savannah Housing Development team

This is a complex purchased by the Landbank Authority that is being developed (by CHSA- Community Services Housing Agency) for medically fragile individuals with no safe home. It is possible CSAH will be able to purchase and operate the residences for \$680,000 but no commitment to that has yet been made. Jenn wrote a LOI to the Balance of State CoC for possible funding and will advocate to Memorial Health and other medical providers for additional support.

f. H.O.M.E. fund opportunity and discussion

Jennifer Delong proposed streamlining all fund raising for various projects undertaken by CSAH into this one fund which will be on-going throughout the year, rather than conducting individual drives. Board members praised the idea.

IIIIV. CSAH Street Outreach (Jenn Dulong)

a. PATH/H.O.T./UCM Outreach/Open Access/Day Centers

Staff for outreach has been doubled thanks to funding by the city, which also provided a mini van for the project. Chatham County is discussing \$650,000 for a mobile shower unit and truck to pull it to be placed at day centers. Who will actually take ownership of the showers and vehicle is still to be determined.

b. Give Change that Counts update.

The city is moving ahead with signs to be erected in downtown areas to encourage contributors to fund this program rather than contribute to pan handlers. City Alderman Kurtis Purtee is advocating for identical signs on the south side. Julian Miller asked for a copy of the signs to provide to a state legislator who offered to approach the state Department of Transportation for permission to post them on Abercorn Street which is a state highway.

c. Camp engagements/Camp clean ups/multi-agency task force meeting

CSAH is leading the coordination of the multi-agency collaboration addressing homeless encampments throughout Chatham/Savannah- public safety, county, city, public works, homeless service providers, mental health, medical providers faith community and others are actively engaged in this effort.

IIIV. Marketing update

a. Website redevelopment and launch

b. Press releases

Work continues daily on the website HOMELESSAUTHORITY.ORG with many improvements. Toby Browne praised the staff and consultants for the quality of the work.

Jimmy Smith made the motion to close the meeting, seconded by Toby Browne.