



ARPA Advisory Committee

1315 S. Washington Avenue
Council Chambers – Room 205
989.399.1311
April 7, 2022
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

ARPA Advisory Committee Chair, Renee Johnston, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Kevin Albosta, Hurley Coleman, Jr., Fenobia Dallas, James Doane, Grady Holmes, Jr., Veronica Horn, Renee Johnston, Christina Jones, Sharon Leaman-Case, Amy Spadafore, Tina Swanton, Valerie Toney

Excused: Cal Talley

Absent: Jeffrey Bulls, James Hernandez

MINUTES:

Moved by Dallas, seconded by Coleman to approve the minutes for March 23, 2022 with the spelling correction of Sharon Leaman-Case. Motion approved.

CHAIR REPORT:

Chair Johnston gave each member one minute to express their thoughts on the process so far. Many expressed excited, honored, ready, and learning from the information shared and the leadership given.

GUIDEHOUSE:

Chair Johnston turned the meeting over to Guidehouse. Mr. Sernick explained the goal of getting to each step and that this meeting will focus on making sure we are all on the same page.

Mr. Sernick continued with announcing the agenda items of Group Norms, General Updates, Proposal Discussion, ARPA Framework, Community Engagement, and the next steps. He expressed the importance of remaining open to the process and focus on eligibility for ARPA funds. As there are many ways and other sources to become eligible.

Member Coleman left the meeting at 5:14 p.m. and returned at 5:16 p.m.

Mr. Sernick stated that he had spoken with Dr. Roberts of the Saginaw School District and that Dr. Roberts will be at our next meeting on April 27 and that he will bring a summary of where the School has allocated their ARPA funds. We will also review ways that we can collaborate with the School.

Mr. Sernick continued with his presentation and held discussion on the following items:

Tentative Timeline:

- March-April: identify major buckets, define how projects will be reviewed, develop submission standards

What are the Goals:

- Engage community and collect project ideas
- Deliver a final report and recommendation to City Council

Proposal Discussion:

- We are looking for everything between an idea box to collect general ideas from the community and an official grant submission with detailed project proposal including sub-recipient capacity

Discussion provided a consensus that we need to consider everything in between but provide the specifics in the information needed in a proposal to be considered. As the members engage with their community they can take notes and help persons have the details to include in their proposal. The proposal form must be clear and concise in a format that will accept all ideas, while meeting the goals of Saginaw’s uniqueness and not what other communities are doing.

Proposal Form Format Considerations:

- What is the request
- Who will execute the project
- Why is this needed
- What will it do for the whole community
- Who will it benefit and how
- Estimated budget and costs
- Fund matching and collaboration
- Sustainability
- Staffing
- Document collection
- What other organization/s are you working with
- Longevity and history in the City

Mr. Sernick moved onto ARPA Framework and presented the committee results from the work conducted at the last meeting. Some ideas overlapped and that is ok. The work was meant to inspire and not to be all inclusive. Also, any potential gaps were discussed such as job fairs, small business marketing, and business mentorship. The categories reviewed were:

Health:

- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Substance Abuse and Prevention
- Healthcare and affordability
- Public Safety

- Health Organization Support
 - Remove Animal shelter due to County millage
 - Add Maternal infant health
 - Add Arts & Cultural

Economic Development:

- Business Support
- Job Training
- Beautification
- Government Services
 - Add non-profits
 - Add Small business internet, mentorship, marketing
 - Add Brownfield Redevelopment for shovel ready property
 - Add Neighborhood economic development

Chair Johnston announced a short recess at 6:12 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Mr. Sernick continued with committee results.

Housing:

- Homelessness
- Deteriorating Housing
- Sustainability
- Affordability
 - Add subsidize doorbell w/cameras in high crime areas
 - Add street LED lighting
 - Add internet access and broadband
 - Add lead paint remediation

Neighborhoods:

- Arts & Cultural
- Neighborhoods
- Zoning Laws
- Public Works
- Beautification
 - Add homelessness prevention
 - Add beautification
 - Add accessible public transportation

Youth and Family:

- Arts
- Education
- Child Care
- Nutrition
- Public Safety
- Community Building

- Add subsidized driver's training
- Add youth music lessons

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mr. Sernick stated that he was asked to have the committee consider City staff premium pay. Human Resource Director Dennis Jordan was present to provide further detail and that the City Council requested a recommendation from the ARPA committee. Mr. Jordan stated that the City has 320 employees and the total maximum amount would be approximately \$1.5 million for employees that worked during the COVID period and that this is an eligible category for the ARPA funds.

Members expressed concern that this was not an area for their decision for a recommendation and that it is for the Council to determine and the City could work through their employee negotiations.

Moved by Horn, seconded by Jones to not consider premium pay for City employees. Discussion held.

Moved by Coleman that premium pay is not this committee's responsibility. A second was not given.

Moved by Spadafore, seconded by Swanton to amend the main motion by adding "not to expedite the premium pay process." Discussion held. Motion approved.

A vote was taken on the main motion as amended. Motion was denied.

Moved by Spadafore, seconded by Doane that this committee will not expedite the premium pay process for City employees. Discussion held.

Members consented that they need to know what the ARPA amount balance would be after the revenue loss portion is reserved by the City.

Vote was taken on the motion. Motion approved.

Chair Johnston turned the meeting back over to Guidehouse. Mr. Sernick led discussion on community engagement. He asked the members to establish a meeting date, time and location with their target groups in the community. This meeting will provide the opportunity to educate the public on the process established by the committee for submitting a proposal. Members are to submit their meeting plans to Mr. Sernick to compile. He will attend the meetings to assist with the presentation and discussion.

Mr. Sernick reported that Guidehouse is working on a submission portal and that hard copy forms would also be available to the public.

The next committee meeting will be April 27 at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Additional meetings of May 12 and 19 are also scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Members of the public that addressed the committee were Edward Connolly, and Teresa Stitt.

Mr. Connolly stated that he was impressed with the process and that he was hoping for a faster outlet of the funds.

Ms. Stitt stated that she appreciates the work taken and that the members will be reaching out to the community as many are under the impression that they have submitted an official proposal.

ADJOURN:

Moved by Spadafore, seconded by Holmes to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Recorded by,

Janet Santos, MiPMC/MMC