

Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 19, 2020 @ 6:30pm

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**Roll Call: Commissioners Present**

Brandon Andrews

Amy Cohen

Louis Henderson

Barbara Cline

Edward Jones

Ayris Scales

Ann Pharr

Lars Etzkorn

David Horwitz

Jessica Hunt

**Review of Past Meeting Minutes:**

Commissioner Lars Etzkorn noted difficulties for some commissioners to join last meeting. Acknowledgement noted in minutes. A motion was made by Chair Andrews to approve minutes. Minutes were approved.

**Director’s Report:**

Director Scales discussed operational outreach and pivot due to Mayor’s stay at home order. Therefore, Serve DC is looking for ways to pivot deliveries of programs and trainings to a virtual model. Due to a digital divide in some communities there has been a challenge engaging with residents without internet to access some of the programming Serve DC delivers.

The Director went on to share that Serve is leveraging technology and have converted and antiquated process for applying for grants to an online platform called Zoom grants.

The Director also shared the following highlights:

* The District has received more than 2.5 Million in donated funds and PPE Equipment.
* The launch of an online platform to better manage and recruit volunteers as well as better manage and coordinate donations and resources. Not just for Serve DC but for other non-profits across the District.
* The Mayor issued her FY21 Budget to Council entitled DC Hope Budget. Director Scales encouraged all commissioners to review the budget and submit any testimony, response or feedback.
* Remaining 3rd Quarter Priorities:
  + Covid-19 Volunteers and Donations
  + Vote Safe DC
  + Formula Application Submission
* 90+ Day Look Ahead
  + Serve DC’s 20th Anniversary
  + Ready for Recovery
  + Funding Alert
  + Virtual Volunteer Awards Ceremony
  + Public Private Partnership Townhall
  + CERT / Teen CERT

**Program Updates:**

**Commission Operations**

Gloria Martinez, Dep. Director of Finance and Operations experienced technical difficulties during her presentation.

Director Scales moved to advance to the next portion of agenda.

**National Service/AmeriCorps**

Jenny Kessler, the National Service Director gave an update on the CNCS formula grant applications. She also gave thanks to the commissioners who were involved as peer reviewers. Noted was the competitiveness of the groups and the limited amount of funding per formula guidance of $715,000.

There were a total of 11 programs awarded formula grants this year. Two of the programs were new. Neighborhood Associates Corporation and ALVAINA Foundation.

Ms. Kessler also shared that Jump Start and Teach for America, traditionally in the competitive pool, unfortunately were not awarded funding from CNCS because of the large pool of applicants. Therefor was happy to include in the formula grant pool to continue their great work.

The amount of funding to be requested is $809,165. Amount includes the $715,000 available funds + unspent funds from FY 19. Ms. Kessler directed Commissioners attention to the “Recommendation sheet”. A document provided in calendar invite prior to meeting. It provided a breakdown of each program, grant type, final score as well as Serve DC’s Ranking. The full package is to be turned in May 28th.

Ms. Kessler turned over to chair to start the vote on formula.

Chair moved to vote on formula grant applications.

There were not enough call in votes to complete vote.

Chair moved to follow up w/ commissioners electronically.

**Volunteer Engagement & Donations Management**

Alexis Squire, Dep. Director for Partnerships and Engagement provided updates regarding the Volunteer and Donations Resource Portal. Giving a special thanks to Commissioners Amy Cohen and David Horwitz for their participation in the pilot. She also provided updates on the VGF 2020 grant. The Mayor released on “Giving Tuesday” and the deadline to apply May 29.

Serve DC is also supporting Board of Elections with recruitment of volunteers at election polls. The volunteers will promote social distancing for safety as well as direct voters with accessibility needs and questions to the staff members onsite. Serve DC asked Commissioners to share volunteer portal with networks.

Commissioner Treffeisen gave appreciation to the team for work done around formula grant, VGF and volunteering efforts.

**State Service Plan**

Matthew Acho, Preparedness Specialist experienced technical difficulties during his presentation. Therefore, Director Scales provided details regarding background and overview of the State Service Plan.

CNCS shared a Bi-annual plan that serves as a blueprint and accountability tool for how Serve DC does work going forward. Initial assessment over past weeks shows Serve DC has evolved greatly since development of last plan. Serve DC is rolling out a working group and invites commissioners to be a part of this group. Group will assist with developing the 2020 - 2022 Service Plan for Serve DC.

Proposed timeline is to have a draft & final version August – September and have commissioners vote on plan in October 2020.

Director open the floor for questions and comments. No questions/comments.

Chair gave final remarks.

**Adjourn:**

Chair Andrews adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.