

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
NGO APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 2nd DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024

The Caddo Parish NGO Appropriations Committee met in legal session on the above date at 10:00 a.m. in the Government Plaza Chambers Conference Room, Commissioner Cothran presiding, with the following members were present constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (8). ABSENT: None (0).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given during the previous Committee meeting. There were no Agenda Additions, so the Committee moved onto Public Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jon Glover came before the Committee and gave the following comment:

Good evening. When do you all's grant management policy [inaudible] particularly under Section: NGO Eligibility Requirements number 6. It seemed to be particularly for a targeted group of peoples. How do you all demonstrate that such is actually being addressed. I know you cannot answer that question to me, but maybe [inaudible]. Thank you.

There being no other public comments, the Committee moved onto New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Make Recommendations on 2025 NGO Applications*

Mr. Thomas asked Dr. Lester to come and speak before the Committee. He is requesting to utilize funds from the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for a housing project in the Allendale Community.

Dr. Lester said that this is a revitalization effort for a dilapidated apartment complex to provide affordable housing units in this area. They have received a funding commitment from the Louisiana Housing Authority for \$700k, but there leaves a gap of about \$143k to complete the project. They are asking the Commission to fund that gap so they can complete the project.

Mr. Atkins asked about the process for the E. Edward Housing Trust Fund. Mrs. Barnett said that there isn't an established process. Mrs. Bryant said that the Grace Project is an NGO, and that is the reason they are before this Committee. In order to fund this project, they would need to transfer from the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund to the Riverboat Fund.

Mr. Cothran then wanted to know the reason for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund. Mrs. Bryant explained that the fund was created to help fund housing projects.

Mr. Atkins said that this project is a good fit for this fund. Mrs. Barnett also explained that the majority of the funding came from ERAP and ARPA. Mr. Atkins wanted to know if there was money available from ARPA to do this project. Mrs. Bryant said there wasn't.

Mr. G. Young wanted to know if this money was set aside strictly for District 3. Mrs. Bryant said that the Commission cannot set funds by District.

Mr. G. Young asked for clarification on the history of the funding for the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund. Mrs. Bryant explained that there was unrestricted funds leftover from projects that were completed. The Commission voted to send those monies to the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund, which amounted to nearly \$1M. She also explained that ARPA and ERAP dollars were placed in this fund.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know the status of the youth build project through SUSLA. Mrs. Bryant said that it was vetted and additional clarification is needed from SUSLA regarding the project. She also explained that the funding amount was \$500k of ARPA dollars and has not been spent yet.

Mr. Thomas said that the funds being requested today is a commitment from the Commission; it will not be needed until 2025. Mrs. Barnett said that this would need to be an amendment on the date of the budget adoption.

Attorney Frazier said that this would be "unrestricted" funding. She also explained that brick and mortar projects are not funded by NGOs. She would need specifics to determine the economic impact and community benefit of the proposed project prior to the Commission committing to this project.

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to postpone considerations of Grace Project's requests pending Legal's findings and that this be moved to the Economic Development Committee.*

Mr. Atkins suggested that this be brought to the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Jones asked that Dr. Lester provide an economic impact study for this project. Dr. Lester understood and

said that he can get it to Attorney Frazier by the close of the day. He also ensured the Committee that they have done their due diligence and have to follow certain guidelines in order to receive funding from the State.

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Burrell reiterated that the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund is not a District 3 Fund. The naming of the fund is to honor the late Dr. E. Edward Jones.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if there was a mechanism in place to replenish this fund. Mrs. Bryant said that the Commission has not established a process to do that.

- *Discussion of Appropriations process to include possible recommendations of updates to the full body*

Mr. Cothran assigned "homework" to the Committee members by reviewing the process and make recommendations on how the process could be improved. He said that there will be another NGO meeting prior to the end of the year.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk