

Old Business:

- A. The Building Committee report was given Harry A. Yates. A meeting was held with Duncan Ballantyne, Martin County Administrator, who indicated that the county has several pieces of property that may be available. However, Mr. Ballantyne could not guarantee that the commission would sell. Mr. Ballantyne requested approximately to know the amount of property needed for a new building. A one-month extension has been granted for our existing property lease deadline. Harry has also met with realtor Chris Kline on prospective properties and toured those appropriate. Most of the commercial property being offered is a condo-type situation, where CSCMC would purchase the building but the landlord owns the outside common areas and land. A separate maintenance fee would be added, based on the square footage purchased.
- B. The Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin, and Okeechobee Counties (ELCIRMO) request to modify special conditions of their contract, which was presented by David Heaton. Staff was given the discretion to meet with ELC and come up with a resolution. Thus, a waiver of the income standard was granted to ELC for the period from July 1, 2006, to March 30, 2007, to allow reimbursement to non-accredited centers for parents with incomes ranging from 0% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), not to exceed \$114,040.00. This is the projected lapse in available CSCMC partnership match funds as identified by ELCIRMO staff. ELCIRMO has also requested to continue these waivers into next contract year for Council approval.

A motion was made by Debbie Crowder and seconded by Marian Carpenter to approve staff recommendations to include that ELCIRMO's request for waiver of the contract special conditions be granted for the Gold Seal requirement, as long as the target childcare programs meet at least one of the following three conditions:

- 1) They score a 4.5 or better on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) / Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS).**
- 2) They are a Gold Seal Accredited Childcare Center.**
- 3) They have a Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) score of 230 or better.**

Staff further recommends that half, or \$175,000.00, of the \$350,000.00 grant amount for CCPP be allocated without income restriction. These funds may be spent providing childcare services to families with incomes ranging from 0% to 200% of FPL. The remaining \$175,000.00 must be spent serving families whose income ranges between 150% and 200% of FPL.

The motion passed unanimously (6-0 vote).

David Heaton reported that ELCIRMO's requests have been met while still maintaining CSCMC's definition of quality and working poor. From the very beginning, staff's position has always been not to supplant state dollars but augment the situation for working poor. What is happening is less childcare centers are presenting services to ELCIRMO to meet the 150-200% income standard, and a greater number exist of centers presenting from 0-150%. This points to inadequate funding from the state to serve that population, which places an additional burden on CSCMC to fund. Scott Berry has conducted research on this issue with analysis pointing to the fact that demographic changes are occurring in this age range with their parents having lower incomes. Staff will continue to monitor this situation throughout the contract year to ensure that no further problems arise. Council had a detailed discussion on this topic. David stated that CSCMC should continue to advocate for additional funding from the state through future legislative efforts, as the tendency will be CSCMC funding more of this situation. Nancy Kline, ELCIRMO Executive Director was in attendance to answer Council's questions.

- C. The Martin County Parks and Recreation Department's Program Reserve funding request was reported by David Heaton. Staff was given the discretion to meet with them and come up with a resolution. Thus, staff agreed that it would be best to fund the Timer Powers Park Program out of program reserve awards for summer programs. Laura Haase, Program Director of Martin County Parks and Recreation Department, was in attendance to answer Council's questions.

A motion was made by Marian Carpenter and seconded by Samia Ferraro to approve Program Reserve funding for the Martin County Parks and Recreation Department, as recommended by staff, to include:

- A. The Banner Lake Program to be funded beginning June 4, 2007, through June 30, 2007, providing funds for 4 staff for 1 month at a cost of \$8,558.00.**
- B. The Timers Powers Park Summer Program to be funded beginning on June 4, 2007, through August 30, 2007, providing funds for 4 staff for 3 months and field trips at a cost of \$21,534.00.**

The motion passed unanimously (6-0 vote).

New Business:

- A. The preliminary budget for 2007-08 was presented by Genevieve Guido. The Budget Committee met on June 18, 2007, to review this preliminary budget, which included criteria set by the property tax reform to include a preliminary millage rate of .2804 (reduction of 12.4% from the current rate or .3202) and a budget of \$10,835,358.00. The overall budget has a growth of \$428,000 or approximately a 4% increase. If approved, the average cost to Martin County homeowners with a taxable value of \$275,000, after the current Homestead Exemption, would be \$77.11. Genevieve reported that program services were kept at the current rate, allowing for a 3% cost-of-living increase. Support program funds were shifted from line to line. No funding is planned for new programs or program enhancements in this preliminary budget. General Government overall increased by 3.8%, which has two components including personnel and operating expenses, and represents a little more than 10% of the overall budget. A major change in planning this budget is incorporating almost all of the interest earnings into the operating plan, which is unusual in that historically it was sent to Fund Balance for future growth and development.

Genevieve reviewed each of the (5) budget schedules in detail for Council. The operating budget (blue-colored sheet) details the percentage of each revenue and expenditure categories. The salmon-colored sheet gives a comparison between this plan (Draft #2) with the current plan (Draft #1). Draft #1 would have allowed for new programs and program enhancements; Draft #2 addresses the property tax reform. The Revenue Budget Allocation plan (buff-colored sheet) shows what the taxes are and the gray box explains the property tax reform for special district, including a 3% reduction plus tax revenue on new construction base on a millage rate of .2804. This gives CSCMC a net decrease of \$94,932.00 and shows how it was allocated, with only 10,000 being reserved for future. The (2) green-colored sheets are the program services budget, showing current programs being funding as of July 1, 2007 and allowing for a 3% cost of living, where the current programs are maintained along with special projects and targeted funding. The (3) yellow-colored sheets detail the operating expenditures (including the rent decrease from ELCIRMO's move out of the building and salary and benefits schedule.

Samia Ferraro recommended that Council consider eliminating the automatic 3% cost-of-living increase that goes to every program and request that each agency justify the cost of living. Ms. Ferraro feels that the cost of living becomes an entitlement. Genevieve reported that the 3% cost of living equates to \$156,000, based on the currently funded programs. David Heaton clarified that the cost of living is not automatic, except for the organizations offered continuing contracts (nine currently) that do not submit an application because they have met a specific criteria; all other organizations are reviewed by TAC and staff to see if this budgeted cost-of-living increase is warranted. Ms. Ferraro also stated that if others are taking cuts, so should these organizations, and operate as efficiently as they can.

harry reminded everyone to look at the big picture, as CSCMC needs to protect serving our children at the minimal level and realizing that by cutting funding will ultimately lead to cutting services.

A motion was made by Tony George and seconded by Marian Carpenter to approve the preliminary budget to be submitted to Martin County, as presented by the Budget Committee. The motion passed unanimously (6-0 vote).

- B. harry a. yates' letter to Council on his 08/31/2007 retirement announcement was read by Karen Ripper. Ms. Ripper expressed that Council has a lot of work ahead to attempt to fill harry's shoes. harry recommended that Council use the same type of Search Committee as when he was hired, which consisted of citizens beyond the Council to include 10 members, such as TAC members. Marian Carpenter would like to see any current staff members who apply to be highly considered for the Executive Director's position. Karen Ripper stated that, typically when this type of position needs to be filled, a Search Committee is formed and a recruiter is also hired to coordinate all the postings, interview process, background checks, etc. Ms. Ripper will Chair the Search Committee and requests Councils' prerogative to work with a Human Resources, independent person outside to look at the recruitment of both in-house and external applicants, based upon the criteria set. The consensus was to let Ms. Ripper make this decision.

harry spoke of several signs that he received to prompt his retirement and call it quits, while his health is good enough to allow him and his wife to travel the countryside in their RV and enjoy life to the fullest!

Executive Director Search Committee Members will include Council Members Marian Carpenter, Tony George, and Dr. Sara Wilcox. Samia Ferraro would like to see Council Members from the past. Tony George would like one member from senior staff if they will not be applying themselves and a long-time funded agency's Executive Director. harry recommended Suzy Hutcheson from Helping People Succeed.

A motion was made by Samia Ferraro and seconded by Marian Carpenter to appoint an Executive Director Search Committee to find harry a. yates' replacement, which shall include Council Members Karen Ripper (as Chair) Marian Carpenter, Tony George, and Dr. Sara Wilcox, also include outside committee members as deemed necessary, and hire an outside, independent recruiter. The motion passed unanimously (6-0 vote).

Staff Reports:

A. Executive Director/Staff Report:

The Executive Director/Staff Report was presented by Harry A. Yates. Council discussed the possibility of the Center for Child Development filing bankruptcy. David Heaton reported that meetings are set with them every 30 days so Council will be kept informed. Karen Ripper wants Harry and/or Elizabeth to summarize the 69 pages of the property tax reform statute for Council's review on how it will impact the agencies.

Samia Ferraro left the meeting @ 11:50 a.m.

B. Financial Reports:

The financial reports were reported by Genevieve Guido. Genevieve reported that the lapsed funds report on currently funded organizations will be given at the August Meeting. No Council comments were given.

For Your Information:

Information was reviewed, as submitted by staff.

Council Member Comments:

None given.

Public Comments:

Joseph Ascrizzi of Palm City spoke of his opinion of not wanting CSCMC funding Planned Parenthood.

As no further discussion existed, the regular meeting was adjourned by Karen Ripper (Chair) at 12:05 p.m.

Karen K. Ripper, Chair

Harry A. Yates, Executive Director