



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

ARPA FUNDING ALLOCATION TASK FORCE

Ald. Milele Coggs, CHAIR

Molly King, Luke Knapp, Ald. Jocasta Zamarripa, Ald. Mark Chambers, Aycha Sawa, Nik Kovac, Sharon Robinson, Steven Mahan, Cecilia Gilbert, and Stephanie Mercado

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Monday, December 12, 2022

1:00 PM

Room 303, Third Floor, City Hall

This is also a virtual meeting conducted via GoToMeeting. Should you wish to join this meeting from your phone, tablet, or computer you may go to <https://meet.goto.com/444152629>. You can also dial in using your phone United States: +1 (224) 501-3412 and Access Code: 444-152-629.

1. Call to order.

Meeting convened: 1:10 p.m.

2. Roll call.

Members present (8): King, Knapp, Zamarripa, Chambers, Jr., Christianson, Lavey, Robinson, Coggs

Members excused (3): Mahan, Gilbert, Mercado

William Christianson serving as Aycha Sawa's designee for this meeting.

Mason Lavey serving as Nik Kovac's designee for this meeting.

Also present:

Andrea Fowler, Budget Office ARPA Director

Tea Norfolk, LRB Liaison to task force

3. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes from November 21, 2022.

Member Zamarripa moved for approval of the minutes from November 21, 2022. There were no objections.

4. Update on task force deadline and extension.

There was pending legislation to extend the task force deadline via Common Council

File Number 221179. The file for task force recommendations would be introduced on Feb. 28th and Council vote on the file would be on March 21st.

5. Update on remaining ARPA funding available.

Ms. Fowler said the amount was roughly \$92.7 million total unallocated, \$17.7 million if \$75 million was reserved for continuation of services in 2024, and \$12.7 million was left if \$5 million was also allocated for continuation of BLS support for 2024.

6. Review of CDBG funding priorities.

Member Robinson would share and forward information this week so people could get a sense of what ARPA items were being funded through CDBG.

7. Discussion, review, and/or motions regarding task force structure and process to evaluate requests and make recommendations.

Ms. Fowler said there was a draft of one possible structure. She was suggesting 3 small work groups, as were recommended in the last meeting. One work group would be to look at city budget needs and balance that with community needs. The second group would be a public engagement and information dissemination work group. The third group would involve proposal collection and make a recommendation to the full task force. The deadlines were in January and the 3rd group would complete its work by Feb. 16th, which would allow the task force to meet one more time before providing recommendations to the Council in March.

Member Zamarripa said the timeline was too tight for all the work that needed to be done.

Ald. Coggs said the original resolution had an even tighter timeline, which was extended due to the budget.

Member Lavey said that they could work with the Jan. 9th deadline relating to the city needs.

Member Robinson thought the public education component should be started.

Member Chambers, Jr. asked why the first group was even needed, but said the creating resolution required that it be done. He thought there needed to be some intentionality with the task force and it should not be seen as using all of the ARPA funds to plug up city shortfalls.

Member Zamarripa noted that many funds were used in the first tranche for the community.

The question came up if the proposed work groups would require public noticing, which would be a question for Assistant City Attorney Peter Block.

Member Robinson noted that all the work of the work groups would be coming back to the main body and that they would not be making any decisions.

The first work group group to include the budget director and someone who would advocate for the community (perhaps member Zamarripa). The second work group to

fall mostly on staff. The third work group to include Bill Christianson, the President's office, and members Robinson and Mahan.

Member Zamarripa noted that many funds were used in the first tranche for the community, was still concerned that the task force timeline seemed unrealistic.

Chair Coggs agreed to chair the second work group as she did not feel there was enough transparency and community inclusion with first tranche allocation and spending. She would like to have the greatest effort to have the public involved in this process. She doesn't want the task force to just be a rubber stamp to what would have just happened anyway. She doesn't know how the first committee can balance the city needs and the community needs since the community really hasn't been involved for a year, which might have changed in the past year. She thought it was very important to hear from the public now. She wasn't willing to relinquish balancing the community needs to anyone or any body.

The creating legislation required the task force to consider proposals from city departments, council members or citizens who have gotten a department or Council member sponsor, per Ms. Fowler. The work group could consider the process (scoring and ranking proposals and amounts).

Chair Coggs noted that spending every penny still wouldn't cover the budget shortfall, and member Zamarripa agreed that the question was will there be anything set aside for the public.

Member Zamarripa noted that two public meetings were required and some dates for those should be thrown out.

Chair Coggs noted that at least the process, if the amount isn't known, could be shared at those community meetings.

Member Chambers, Jr. noted that the COVID-19 pandemic didn't put the city into the budget shortfall. The two public meetings would need presentations by subject matter experts, either the budget director or herself as an expert on ARPA.

Chair Coggs thought if the meetings were run like the two budget hearings were run, it would meet the conditions of the creating resolution, and member Zamarripa agreed. Chair Coggs thought more than two meetings may be needed.

Member Christianson noted the timeline was pretty tight for members of the public and departments to make their proposals.

Member Robinson suggested starting with the public dissemination work group and having at least two meetings in January.

Ms. Robinson moved to create the Public Engagement and Information Work Group. There were no objections.

If anyone was interested in serving, please let Chair Coggs or Ms. Fowler know. Chair Coggs and members Zamarripa and Robinson were willing to serve.

Ms. Fowler would be on parental leave Jan. 20th-March 7th.

Chair Coggs noted that many community groups and neighborhood groups would take

time off and let their staff take time off the end of December, which will affect public notification, so she thought the end of January would be the most effective.

Member Robinson noted that the city does have staff that can work on this, with graphic designers and community engagement staff, who could do Facebook posts as well as other outreach efforts.

Member Christianson said it might be helpful to have the citizens know how to submit proposals and how they would be scored prior to the public meetings.

Ms. Fowler also suggested letting the public know the amounts of the proposals that should be submitted.

Chair Coggs said the conversation with the public needs to start.

Ms. Norfolk asked if the survey should be completed so they can be handed out at the community meetings. Members were supportive of that. The 3rd work group should also begin working (methodology and ranking of recommendations) and knowing that the timelines voted on today may not be the final timelines.

Chair Coggs thought this work group must proceed along with the other two and not wait for the former's work to be completed.

Member King moved to create the Proposal Collection, Review Funding and Criteria Work Group. There were no objections. Member King was willing to serve, as well as members from the Comptroller's Office. Ms. Fowler thought one of the two public members of this Task Force might be appropriate to serve.

Member Robinson's office had created a survey which chair Coggs would like to have input from community groups. Member Robinson thought the more simple the better and a shorter survey would have higher odds of being completed. Chair Coggs would like to work with Ms. Robinson on getting the survey distributed as widely as popular. Ms. Norfolk suggested adding city services, such as library, trash collection, plowing, etc. Ms. Fowler suggested just having a broad category of "city services" and then list examples on the same line. Member Robinson wanted the survey as short as possible.

Ms. Fowler noted there were no funds for the work of this task force.

Member Robinson noted there were creative ways to find funding for this, including amending contracts, and that the task force figure out how all of this information would be reported to the public, Mayor, and Council.

8. Next steps.

a. Items for future agenda

Chair Coggs suggested (but not for the next agenda) how does this body want to address reprogramming dollars and how this would be handled.

Ms. Fowler noted that the creating resolution did address this, so that would need to be amended if a change was desired. She put this out there as something to think about.

Chair Coggs would like to discuss how to spread the duties of the first proposed work

group as a future agenda item.

b. Set next meeting date(s) and time(s)

January 12, 2023 at 1 p.m.

9. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned: 2:32 P.M.

*Linda M. Elmer, Staff Assistant
Edited by Chris Lee, Staff Assistant
Council Records Section
City Clerk's Office*

Meeting materials of the task force can be found within the following file:

[220789](#)

Communication relating to the activities of the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Allocation Task Force.

Sponsors: THE CHAIR