

**City of Rock Island
Community Development Commission
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3rd Floor
1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL**

March 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

KJ Whitley called the meeting to order at 5:32PM.

2. Roll Call

KJ Whitley called the roll.

Herschel Jackson, Jen Osing, Jeremy Crafton, KJ Whitley and Richinda Sakho were present.

Andrea Muller and Calvin Dane were absent.

Staff present included Community Development Manager Nichole Mata, Housing Officer Jennifer Graff, Budget Specialist Melissa Holderfield and Urban Planner Eunice Amisah-Mensah.

No remote attendance.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Crafton moved to approve the meeting minutes for February 16, 2026. Sakho seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

6. New Business

Mata gave a brief summary on the CAPER (Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report) This document summarizes how well the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) performs. It is the end of the CAPER report and now we have to do another one. In April, Mata will bring a draft copy of the Annual Action Plan for 2026. Staff drafted the CAPER and posted it for comment starting on March 11, 2026 and posted in the newspaper, put on the City's website, and paper copies were at the library downtown, MLK Center, and 2nd floor of City Hall. Today ends the 15 days public comment period before it goes to HUD. Mata hasn't received any comments yet, but if she does they will be included in the CAPER. Staff held a public meeting which was on March 16, 2026. There was no public comment on the CAPER. On Monday, March 23, 2026, the CAPER was approved by City Council to be submitted to HUD. There was no comment from board members.

Whitley explained that the next agenda item is the approval of the 2026 Public Service applications. The board is going to discuss the award amounts. Mata stated that we had the application process, the commission has reviewed and approved recipients and application process, presentations and now we are at the scoring process. Mata explained that she would like to take the recommendations to Council at the same time that the Annual Action Plan is going

to Council. The total amount requested by all applicants is roughly \$350,750.00. We don't know what the allocation is yet, but are capped at 15%. With that being said, we are estimating our amount to be \$155,000.00. Due to the amounts that are being requested, we are not going to be able to give all applicants the amounts that they have requested. Crafton asked about scoring sheets.

Whitley asked the board members how they would like to do the funding. Sakho stated that she would like to do it by percentage. Osing stated that if the applicant scores higher than a 70 or 75 then they would get a percentage of the funding. Crafton asked if there was a minimum score that an applicant would need to have in order to get funding at all? Osing stated yes, that there was a minimum score of 70.

Graff did the scoring for all applicants. The total scores are YWCA 408, Prairie State Legal 423, Spring Forward 450, Narrative 454, Christian Care 459 and MLK Center 472. Whitley asked Graff to take each score and divide them by 5 (the number of voting members at the meeting). YWCA 81.6, Prairie State Legal 84.6, Spring Forward 90.0, Narrative 90.8, Christian Care 91.8, MLK Center 94.4. Crafton made a comment that all applicants exceed the minimum score of 70 by far and it's just a matter of how the board wants to break it up. Osing stated that the applicants that received a higher score should receive a higher percentage than the other applicants. Graff made a recommendation of doing it by dollar amount and not by percentage.

Mata gave her recommendation as the following, Christian Care requested \$50,000; staff recommendation is \$40,000, Narrative requested \$25,000; staff recommendation is \$15,000, YWCA requested \$50,000; staff recommendation is \$20,000, Spring Forward requested \$25,000; staff recommendation is \$20,000, MLK Center requested \$150,750; staff recommends \$150,000 and Prairie State Legal requested \$50,000; staff recommends \$10,000 given that the allocation hasn't increased or decreased.

Whitley stated that based on the recommendation from Mata, she has asked Osing to come up with the percentages for each applicant. YWCA is at 40%, Prairie State Legal is at 20%, Spring Forward is at 80%, Narrative is at 60%, Christian Care is at 80% and MLK Center is at 33%. Whitley asked probably the 33% for MLK Center is it because the request was so high? Crafton state that he doesn't think that they can really go off of that one statistic and need to make sure that they are getting the most dollars.

The board's recommendation is \$55,000 for MLK Center, \$40,000 for Christian Care, \$20,000 for QC Narrative, \$10,000 for YWCA, \$20,000 for Spring Forward and \$10,000 for Prairie State Legal. Crafton asked if it's worth the effort for the agency for the amount of paperwork for them to receive \$10,000. Mata stated yes, it's the minimum amount that they can receive. She stated that once Council makes the final recommendation, that they will submit the amounts to the agencies, and at that time the agency can decide if they would like to move forward.

Graff stated that she wants the board to think about not looking at the number that they are requesting but looking at the highest impact that they are going to put out for the City. Mata stated that she agrees with that, but thinks that the board would have done that with the scoring of each applicant.

Whitley made a recommendation for the 2026 Public Service funds to be distributed as follows, MLK Center \$55,000, Christian Care \$40,000, Narrative \$20,000, Spring Forward \$20,000, Prairie State Legal \$10,000 and YWCA \$10,000. Crafton second the motion. Whitley yes, Osing yes, Jackson yes, Sakho yes, and Crafton yes. Motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

7. Adjournment

Osing made a motion to adjourn. Sakho seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.