



## Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

March 3, 2022

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

### **In attendance:**

Committee Members: Annie Carpenter, Doug Clarke, Kevin McAbee, Liz Ward, Ray Hemachandra

Absent: Chuck Rosenblum, Kate Burger, Kim Robinson, Paul Tax

County Staff: Angelyn Johnson, Matt Baker

Other: Sunshine Request

### **Opening Remarks**

Doug Clarke called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Doug Clarke made a motion to approve the minutes from February 3, 2022 and Ray Hemachandra seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Old Business**

- Grant Timeline:
  - 3/11 at 5:00 pm – deadline to submit questions for applicants
  - 3/18 at 5:00 pm – deadline for applicants to submit answers to committee questions
  - 4/5 at 5:00 pm – deadline for scoring applications
  - 4/7 at 1:00 pm – Committee meeting
  - 4/21 at 1:00 pm – Committee meeting
  - 4/28 at 1:00 pm – Committee meeting (if needed)

### **New Business**

- Grant Process
  - There is a new question in the online portal that asks if the committee member recommends the project for funding or not.
  - Staff will capture that data to identify how many committee members recommend each project for funding.
  - Last year, the committee decided to only consider projects with 4 or more committee members recommending funding. The initial funding scenario had all projects with 5 or more committees recommending funding at the median amount.
  - At the first meeting in April, staff will share the overall score for each project and the number of committee members recommending each project.
  - After that meeting, there will be a question added to the online portal for committee members to enter their recommended funding amount for the projects. This will take the place of the spreadsheet that was previously emailed to committee member, who completed their funding recommendation and emailed it back to staff to compile.



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- Staff will compile the funding recommendations and will present the initial funding scenario during the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in April. Committee members can make adjustments like in previous years.
- It was recommended to clarify that committee members should select “yes” to the funding recommendation question even if they only recommend partial funding. Angelyn will update the question to reflect these recommended changes.
- Standard Follow-up Questions For All Applicants:
  - Committee members have the opportunity to enter their questions for applicants online.
  - Last month, the committee discussed asking all applicants about partial funding
    - Open-ended question: If your project were to be awarded partial funding, is there anything you would want the committee to take into consideration?
  - The committee did not have any other standard questions for all applications.
- Conflicts of Interest:
  - Each year, committee members are tasked with disclosing any conflicts of interest or any potential conflicts of interest. The committee worked hard on revising that section of the bylaws recently. Angelyn will be sending out an online form for committee members to complete. When completing the form, it is best to err on the side of caution and disclose anything you think may be pertinent. If you have any questions or need assistance with the form, reach out to Angelyn or Rachael.
- General Comments/Concerns:
  - Committee members would like to consider limitations for organizations who are funded year after year. Could some of these organizations/projects possibly be funded elsewhere in the county budget? Since projects are limited to three years in this grant program, many larger organizations will likely submit a different project, which limits the amount of funding available for other organizations. The committee would like to evaluate this and possibly make changes to the process after this grant cycle, which is the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for many projects.

### Announcements:

- The Board of Commissioners have opened another round of applications for the ARPA funding (COVID Recovery Funding). Anyone interested can follow along: [www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding](http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding)

**Next Meeting** –Next meeting is April 7, 2022 at 1:00 pm