



Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

December 2, 2021

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

In attendance:

Committee Members: Chuck Rosenblum, Doug Clarke, Kate Burger, Kevin McAbee, Kim Robinson, Liz Ward, Paul Tax, Ray Hemachandra

Absent: Annie Carpenter

County Staff: Rachael Nygaard

Other: Sunshine Request

Opening Remarks

Doug Clarke called the meeting to order.

Ray Hemachandra was welcomed as the newest member of the committee.

Approval of Minutes

Paul Tax made a motion to approve the minutes from October 7 and Doug Clarke seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote. Ray Hemachandra abstained from the vote due to not being in attendance at the last meeting.

Old Business

- Capacity Building:
 - Staff have been in communication with WNC Nonprofit Pathways and CoThinkk. These conversations are ongoing. Staff will bring options for the committee to consider during the next meeting.
- Staff provided resources for the committee to review if interested:
 - Grantmakers for Effective Organizations publication, "[Reimagining Capacity Building](#)"
 - Trust-Based Philanthropy Project, "[Guides & How-To's](#)"

New Business

- Revised Bylaws
 - Staff presented a proposed revision to the bylaws that bring the document into alignment with the commissioners' intention. The suggested revision is to update the conflict of interest section to state "Additionally, committee members shall not currently serve on the board of directors or staff of an applicant organization."
 - The committee feels the conflict of interest section needs some additional revisions. The committee discussed the difference levels of conflict of interest and how those should be handled. The committee generally agreed that recusal of scoring is appropriate for participating in organizations (volunteering, advising, and receiving services) but that recusal was not sufficient if a committee member served on the board of an applicant organization. The group also discussed the need for disclosure of conflict of interest when recusal is needed.
 - Staff will work with the county attorney to revise this section. The committee will discuss these changes and seek final voting approval of changes to the bylaws at the next meeting.



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- Grant cycle planning
 - Grant Guidelines:
Staff presented draft FY2023 Grant Guidelines. The committee would like the foundational section edited to clarify the definition of capacity building. This section will not be a separate option for applicants to select, but will be a statement informing applicants that it can be incorporated into their proposal. Staff will email the definition to the committee for input before publishing the grant guidelines.
 - Application and Scoring Criteria:
The committee has no suggested changes to the application or scoring criteria for this grant cycle.

Announcements:

Since Ray has joined the committee, it was suggested that staff send out the site visit schedule so he and other committee members can sign up for the remaining site visits.

Rachael informed the committee about the COVID Recovery Funding [website](#) where people can follow along with the process if interested. So far, approximately \$22M has been awarded to 26 projects.

At the next meeting, Committee members would like to discuss the possibility and timeline for returning to in-person meetings.

Next Meeting – No meeting in January. Next meeting is February 3, 2022 at 1:00 pm