



## Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

July 2, 2020, 2:00-3:30

Virtual Meeting

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### Welcome

- Doug Clarke called the meeting to order.
- Committee members in attendance: Annie Carpenter; Chuck Rosenblum; Davidson Jones; Douglas Clarke; Kate Burger; Kevin McAbee; Liz Ward; Paul Tax; Rebecca Strimer

#### Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from May 7, 2020 by Doug Clarke, seconded by Rebecca Strimer. Vote was unanimous for approval.

#### Old Business

##### Grant Update

- Review of how grants are going: Rachael and Angelyn have been working with grantees. Had a call yesterday with all of the organizations. We have drafted performance based contracts and sent to the organizations yesterday. They will report quarterly to include a budget update with their actual spending, a narrative and performance measures.

##### Board of Commissioners Briefing

- Invitation to present on August 18 at their 3:00 pm briefing meeting. They would like to hear how the grant process went this year. Doug Clarke, Paul Tax, Kate Burger and Rebecca Strimer offered to present. Will coordinate as a sub-group and report back on status to full committee on August 6.

##### Grant Process Reflection

- Brainstorm on what went well:
  - County's facilitation and support, especially using technology for the virtual meetings
  - Committee and our leadership's ability to weave voices together and fund many worthy projects
  - Grant software for evaluating grants was very helpful
  - Communication from grantees was helpful especially impact from COVID
  - Feel proud to be part of this work
  - Pleased with the accommodations for transferring to virtual meetings for the process
  - Happy with diversity of projects
  - Learned a lot about organizations in the community
  - Nine committee members worked well together and listened to each other's points of view
- Brainstorm on ideas for improvement:

Meeting materials are posted online at [www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants](http://www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants)



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- Some of the organizations (ex. Pisgah Legal) depend on the county funds, so the 3 year limit restricts them
- Some opportunities for multi-year commitment for funding
- Carve out funds for projects they feel is important to fund multiple years
- Would like to know Commissioner's perspective for long-term funding projects. What avenues are there to fund these organizations?
- Build capacity around supporting grantees on evaluation processes so they could seek other grant funds from other funding sources.
- Difficult to evaluate some projects that seem to be critical to basic needs and ability to survive with other projects that were for improving and thriving.
- Rubric for evaluating proposals seemed to affect the smaller, grassroots organizations – especially organizations of color.
- Build in a method to ensure equity, especially to be inclusive to organizations led by people of color
- Consider carving a portion of funds for minority led organizations.
- Review the questions and the rating scales to see if there were difficult ones that needs to be removed/edited or if there were more relevant ones that we should ask
- Quantify responsibility of funds received
- Site visits to witness impact of grants as well as accountability
- Have a survey for all applicants for feedback from this year and for input/suggestions for future cycles
- How to ensure accountability
- Explore if the fund could grow next year, gather data to demonstrate to the Commissioners
- How do the SPG grants fit into the bigger picture within the county?
- Consider workshops to invite non-profit organizations and provide technical assistance for seeking other funds (i.e. CFWNC, Dogwood Health Trust)
- Some organization have professional staff to write their proposals that score better than the grassroots organizations that are written by volunteer. Can we provide technical assistance to help write better grant proposals
- Have a mechanism for evaluating an organization's performance and success with the prior year funding
- Consider rules around organizations applying for multiple grant projects

### **FY2021 Planning**

- Roadmap for FY2021 will cover how would the committee like to spend their time from now until the end of the calendar year (until the next grant cycle kicks off)
  - Submit survey to all applications (one survey for those who were funded and one for those who were not funded).
    - Paul and Kate will work with Rachael to draft survey questions.

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## **Strategic Partnership Grants Committee**

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- Commissioner briefing
- Site visits (either virtual or in person)
- Review applications/scoring sheets
- Review grantee quarterly reports
- Create plan for grant writing workshop(s)
- Participate with grantee cohort call

### **Meeting Schedule**

First Thursday of each month from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

### **Next Meeting**

August 6, 2020

1:00-2:30

Virtual Meeting