



Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

August 5, 2021

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Virtual Special Meeting

In attendance:

Committee Members: Annie Carpenter, Chuck Rosenblum, Doug Clarke, Kate Burger, Kevin McAbee, Paul Tax, Rebecca Strimer Absent: Kim Robinson, Liz Ward

County Staff: Rachael Nygaard, Angelyn Johnson, Burnett Walz

Other: Sunshine Request

Opening Remarks

Doug Clarke called the meeting to order. Kevin McAbee conducted an attendance roll call.

Approval of Minutes

Doug Clarke made a motion to approve the minutes from April 29 and Kate Burger seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Old Business

- Reflections on grant process:
 - The committee would like to see this year's grant making process mapped out.
 - Did a good job focusing on the fundamental objective of allocating the full budget and not getting lost in any one single application
 - Could still do better with equity because it is an ongoing process. The strength is that we explicitly included it as value to the scoring; the struggle is to continue to increase access to these funds in an equitable manner. Would like to do a deeper dive into equity in the grants. Kate, Annie and Rebecca volunteered to be on the equity subgroup to discuss to how to continue to improve on considering equity in our process.
- FY21 wrap up and FY22 launch
 - FY2021 ended on June 30, and all grantees have submitted their final reports. Those reports are posted online at www.buncombecounty.org/grants. Only one grantee returned funding, and that was directly due to COVID impacts on their project.
 - FY2022 began on July 1. Staff have been working with grantees to get updated budget and performance measures and have issued performance based contracts for all projects. 33 of 36 awards for 2021 have finalized contracts; 2 ongoing; 1 project has declined funding. MusicWorks Asheville declined their award of \$10,000 because they will not be able to complete the project this year
 - The committee had a discussion about options for using those \$10,000. Some options are to provide technical assistance to all applicants, provide equity training/facilitation for the committee, provide funding to specific projects, etc. The decision does not have to happen right now, and the committee can take their time and be deliberate in their decision. This discussion will continue at the meeting in September.



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New Business

- Officer Elections: Executive officers for the Committee have to be elected annually, and it is time to elect the officers for FY2022. These positions include the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. The Committee will nominate and vote on new officers at the meeting in September.
- FY22 Planning:
 - Site Visits: The committee discussed site visits for this fiscal year. The committee would like to do site visits if possible. They could be scheduled from mid-September through December. In order for 3 committee members to attend each site visit, each committee member would need to attend 12 site visits. Staff will work on a plan, including gathering committee availability and capacity to attend site visits and will bring the information to the September meeting.
 - Meeting Format: Due to the rise in COVID cases and the Delta variant, meetings will remain virtual for the foreseeable future.
 - Road map: Staff will create a draft road map for the committee to review at the next meeting

Next Meeting – September 2, 2021 at 1:00 pm.