



Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

June 6, 2024

1:00 – 2:30 pm

200 College St, Room 310

In attendance:

Committee Members:

Present: Dr. Amy Russell (virtual), Ann Flynn, Liz Ward, Cathy Ray, Mark Mickey (virtual), Ray Hemachandra (virtual)

Absent: Doug Clarke, Kate Burger, Kim Robinson

County Staff: Rachael Sawyer Nygaard, Sara Joss, Angelyn Johnson, Burnett Walz, Angelica Tyler

Opening Remarks

Ray Hemachandra called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Cathy Ray made a motion to approve the minutes from April 18, 2024, and Ann Flynn seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- There was no old business.

New Business

- Committee Membership Update
 - Thank you to Kim for her service on the committee. Her term ends on June 30th.
 - We have received 5 applications for the vacant position. The Board of Commissioners will be conducting interviews on June 18, and will likely appoint the new member during their meeting that evening.
- 2030 Strategic Plan Input
 - Burnett gave a presentation on the 2030 Strategic Plan and received committee input.
 - Multiple community input sessions were held in May, more will occur in September
 - Plan adoption is slated for November 2024.
 - Committee members provided feedback for consideration
- Process Improvement for FY26
 - Community Outreach
 - Grants Fair (a huge community engagement win)
 - Use/Create data to target organizations that are underrepresented in specific focus areas
 - Survey nonprofits with outreach (especially for organizations that don't apply or receive funding) for what is/isn't working and their perceptions of Strategic Partnership Grants and County Grants
 - Social media campaign
 - Application and Grant Guidelines
 - Don't fund capital projects



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- Limit organizations to only apply for one Strategic Partnership Grant project per year
- Ask for net assets in future applications to help committee determine need for projects costs (especially if capital request)
- Examine why Environment applications typically have fewer entries
- Information regarding baseline or starting point for outcome measures
- Emphasize measures objectives. Maybe include an example of measurable objective in application
- Broaden alternative and/or more accessible application design for a more equitable, accessible, and inclusive process
- Proposal Process
 - Improve method for geographical diversity – population served vs main location
 - Take into consideration when an organization has a large budget with significant cash reserves.
 - Consider how to weight priority areas vs overall scores
 - Examine why environmental applications typically receive lower scores
 - Continue with follow-up questions for applicants?
 - Consider % of funding held for start-up/new to county funding organizations
 - Give more consideration for smaller or partial grants
- Funding Recommendations
 - Lock in funding scenario before awards being made
 - Lower max to include more smaller projects
- Other
 - Should summer programming for kids be funded in a different way (general budget, ECE, etc)? Specialized consideration
 - Equity as its own grantmaking category
 - Ask commissioners for a fund increase
 - Eliminate site visits to mitigate judging bias
 - Consider recommending to commissions the consideration of multi-year grant applications

Announcements:

- There will be no meeting in July due to the holiday.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held on August 1, 2024, from 1:00 – 2:30 pm – 200 College St Room 310.