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
  o Thank you to Kim for her service on the committee. Her term ends on June 30th.
  o 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
  o Burnett gave a presentation on the 2030 Strategic Plan and received committee input.
  o Multiple community input sessions were held in May, more will occur in September
  o Plan adoption is slated for November 2024.
  o Committee members provided feedback for consideration
• Process Improvement for FY26
  o 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
  o Application and Grant Guidelines
    ▪ Don’t fund capital projects
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.