



Richland County Council
Community Impacts Grants Committee
MINUTES
April 4, 2023 – 4:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jesica Mackey, Chair, Jason Branham, Paul Livingston, and Cheryl English.

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Terracio, Leonardo Brown, Michelle Onley, Chelsea Bennett, Anette Kirylo, Sarah Harris, Angela Weathersby, Abhijit Deshpande, Ashiya Myers, Kyle Holsclaw, Lori Thomas, Patrick Wright, John Thompson, Jennifer Wladischkin, Stacey Hamm, Bill Davis, Jessica Mancine, Dale Welch, and Susan O’Cain.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chairwoman Jesica Mackey called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM.
Ms. Mackey noted that Ms. Barron notified her that she could not attend today’s meeting due to a prior obligation.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. March 21, 2023 – Ms. English moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Livingston.
In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Mackey, and English.
Not Present: Barron.
The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. English moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Mr. Branham.
In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Mackey, and English.
Not Present: Barron.
The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEM FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

Ms. Mackey reminded the committee members that they had previously agreed upon the amount of funding we would like to see in the upcoming budget. The recommendation is on tonight’s Council agenda. The next item we discussed was the process by which we would approve organizations. Committee members pointed out there were organizations the County has funded for years and provide essential services that we refer to as “Community Partners.” Committee members were to provide the “Community Partners” names to either staff or her. Included in the agenda packet are the entities recommended to receive funding under the Community Impact Grant funding amount but would not necessarily go through a competitive process.

Mr. Livingston stated from a historical perspective; he is okay with the organizations listed. He noted one of the things we were missing in the past was an agreement or deliverables report to inform us of what the funding is being used for.

Ms. Mackey agreed with Mr. Livingston’s statement. She indicated that the next step would be solidifying the parameters, information, and commitments we would like to see from the organizations each year.

Ms. English noted that the Oliver Gospel Mission is not on the “Community Partners” list, and they do so much in the community.

Ms. Mackey mentioned the Oliver Gospel Mission is listed on the Historical Funding by Organization Amount spreadsheet (pp. 8-10). She indicated they have not been historically funded but have received funding in the past.

Mr. Branham stated he appreciated Ms. English mentioning the Oliver Gospel Mission. From his life experience, this organization has a lot to do with helping the helpless. This always brings to mind those struggling with homelessness, addictions, and hunger. Some of the recurring type partners he would like to support would fall under this type of mission. He indicated he was not as familiar with the other organizations. In his review of the organizations, Senior Resources, MIRCI, Transitions Homeless Center, and Palr Life Support seem to fall within the category he previously mentioned. The Columbia Chamber of Commerce, in partnership

local governments, assists in supporting and maintaining Fort Jackson and McEntire Air National Guard Base. He noted there is a great return on investment by supporting this entity's interventions conducted in Washington, DC. Therefore, he would vote for them as well.

Ms. Mackey suggested adding Pathways to Healing to the list; historically, the county has supported them. They support our Sheriff's Department with special victim advocates and help to solve crimes related to sexual assault.

Ms. Terracio echoed Ms. Mackey's suggestion, stating that this organization supplies experts in sexual trauma to the Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Mackey indicated that if the committee approves the listed organizations, it does not mean we are not working with others. Furthermore, these organizations are not committed to an amount. We are simply saying these are organizations we want to deem as "Community Partners," and all others will apply and compete for funding.

Ms. English moved to forward the list below to Council for approval, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

- a. Proposed List of Community Partners
 1. Senior Resources
 2. MIRCI
 3. Community Relations Council
 4. Palmetto AIDS Life Support
 5. Columbia Chamber of Commerce (BRAC)
 6. Transitions Homeless Center
 7. Columbia Urban League
 8. Oliver Gospel Mission
 9. Pathways to Healing

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Proposed Timeline
 1. Application Development – by May 31, 2023
 - Previously used an application through the Discretionary Grant Committee. Changes could be made to provide additional information to Council and make the application easier to utilize.
 2. Application Opens – July 1, 2023
 - Utilize Zoom Grants
 3. Application Closes – July 31, 2023
 4. Review of Applications – August 1-21, 2023
 - The review period will be Councilmembers and staff working together to ensure we have all the requested documentation.
 5. Funding Awarded – September 15, 2023
 6. Grant Period Start – October 1, 2023
 7. Grant Period Ends – June 30, 2024

Mr. Livingston noted the awarding of funds was outside of the normal budget process.

Ms. Thomas stated that typically awards are funded in July. With this process, you would award a maximum amount in the budget. The allocations would not exceed that amount.

Ms. English inquired if these funds would need to be expended by the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Thomas replied that would be preferable. However, we could always roll some of the funds over if we award them later in the year. Another option would be to allow an organization to recoup funds from July 1st to the award date.

Mr. Livingston moved to forward to Council with a recommendation to accept the timeline as presented, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Mackey, and English.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey asserted the next step for the committee is to start thinking about the criteria we would like to see in the application. Staff will be sending out the application we previously used for you to review and give feedback on. Please note we will focus on the application and requirements at the next meeting. We worked hard to develop our Strategic Plan; therefore, she feels it would be good to look at aspects of the Plan to ensure we are tying it to organizations we are funding, so we can move the needle on some of the initiatives we want to accomplish in the next three years.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. English moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Mackey, and English.

Not Present: Barron.

The vote in favor was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:22 PM.