



Richland County Council
Community Impacts Grants Committee
MINUTES
August 29, 2023 – 3:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jessica Mackey, Chair, Jason Branham, Paul Livingston, Gretchen Barron, and Cheryl English (arrived at 3:15 PM)

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Terracio, Chelsea Bennett, Anette Kirylo, Kyle Holsclaw, Lori Thomas, Stacey Hamm, Leonardo Brown, Patrick Wright, Sarah Harris, Abhijit Deshpande, John Thompson, Aric Jensen, and Thomas Gilbert

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chairwoman Jessica Mackey called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. July 17, 2023 – Ms. Barron moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Mr. Livingston.
In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Barron, and Mackey
Not Present: English
The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

4. **ITEM FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - a. Grant Application Results – Ms. Mackey noted there were a few training sessions offered for those individuals needing assistance with understanding the application or Zoom Grants. The application period ran from July 1-31, 2023. From that point, staff and the outside consultant to assist with evaluating the applications received.
Ms. Lori Thomas, Assistant County Administrator, stated the application process went well.
 - A total of 124 applications were received; 115 were general grant applicants, and 9 were from community partners
 - Total requests of \$5.128M (community partner requests - \$913,500 and general grant requests - \$4.2M)
 - Most applicants cover multiple districts, and all of the community partners serve the entire County

 - b. Community Partners Requests – Ms. Mackey noted all of the community partners identified by the committee applied by the deadline. The funds are proposed to be released by October 1st.
Ms. Barron requested to clarify the amount set aside for the community partners.
Ms. Thomas replied \$1.372M is available for the community partners. The third-party consultant, Guidehouse, has agreed to a fee not to exceed \$218,000 to review the applications. With that in mind, the funds to cover the community partners' request of \$913,500 could be taken from that group of money to allow the \$872,000 for the general grants to be available for award. She noted \$40,000 of the cost would be

associated with ARPA dollars, so we would need to award \$360,000 of ARPA. We have a few projects we have in mind we believe could qualify for ARPA grants.

It was noted the Columbia Urban League's percentage going toward the program is 89.9%, and they are requesting 100% of the cost of their project. The 89.9% is the amount reported to the Secretary of State relative to the amount of income and how much is applied to projects, not operational costs.

Ms. Barron moved to approve the Community Partners' requests, at the amount requested, in the amount of \$913,500, seconded by Ms. English.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- c. Next Steps – Ms. Mackey stated the recommendation for the Community Partners' request will be on the September 12th Council agenda. The next committee meeting will be held on September 12th, where the general grant applications will be reviewed. The goal is to forward a recommendation on those requests to the September 19th Council meeting, which will allow us to remain on schedule for releasing the funds beginning October 1st.

Mr. Livingston inquired what information the committee would have before the meeting.

Ms. Mackey responded the information would be similar to what is included in this meeting's agenda packet.

Mr. Livingston inquired when the information would be available to the committee members.

Ms. Mackey indicated it would be prior to the meeting.

Ms. Barron inquired if the applicants had been scored. She noted it would be helpful if scores were available when the committee begins making awards.

Ms. Mackey pointed out that the criteria and processes used are similar to the ARPA program, however, it pointed out that this pot of money does not have the same requirements as ARPA funds.

Ms. Thomas stated having spoken with Chairwoman Mackey and understanding the information she believes the committee wants; two lists would be provided in addition to the application. One would be an alphabetical list, which will provide the organization's name, the project, the requested amount, and the grant score. Likewise, there will be a separate list that will be in the order of ranking and the category the grant falls into.

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

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:36 PM.