



Richland County Council  
Community Grant Committee Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
October 18, 2022 – 2:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Yvonne McBride (arrived at 2:14 p.m.), Paul Livingston, Gretchen Barron, Jessica Mackey, and Cheryl English

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Malinowski, Abhijit Deshpande, Lori Thomas, Aric Jensen, Leonardo Brown, Ashiya Myers, Angela Weathersby, Kyle Holsclaw, Patrick Wright, Anette Kirylo, Tamar Black, Justin Landy and Michelle Onley

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Councilman Paul Livingston called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 PM.
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** – Ms. Mackey moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Barron,

In Favor: Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

Not present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ELECTION OF THE CHAIR** – Ms. Mackey moved to nominate Ms. English for the position of Chair, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

Not present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- a. **Community Impact Grant Committee Purpose**

1. **To rename the Discretionary Grants Committee to the Community Impact Grant Committee, and add additional Council member to the committee. This comes from Council's recent budget motion to allocate an additional \$300,000 to the committee and develop a process that creates accountability and transparency.** – Ms. Mackey stated, as the maker of the motion, the goal is to create accountability and transparency in the process and to be able to inform all organizations on how to receive grants from the County.

Mr. Livingston inquired as to which grants the committee would be responsible for.

Ms. Mackey responded the committee will need to determine what that looks like. Her

thought process was the committee would decide how they want to manage the General Fund monies utilized for organizations, so we see the impact in the community. The committee would not control all the grants, as staff handles specific grants.

Mr. Brown stated staff needs to receive guidance on how to utilize the committee. It was not their understanding this committee would be responsible for all grant funding, but was specific to the budget process, as it relates to General Fund dollars requested through Council members, and to establish a process for anyone applying for grants from the General Fund budget.

Ms. Barron stated, for clarification, it is any grant allocated through the budget process, including the discretionary grants.

Ms. English responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Livingston stated he thought there was an urgent need to allocate the \$300,000. He inquired how that will impact Items 4(b) and (c). He noted he is confused on what we will do and when. He inquired if there are additional lump sums to allocate.

Ms. English responded they currently have a process in place. Due to the timing, we will not be able to create a new process. For the time being, we will keep the current process and determine, in the future, what this will look like.

Ms. Mackey responded Item 4(b) is a breakdown of the money that was approved and allocated in the budget. There is an additional \$300,000 we need to determine how we are going to distribute. As Ms. English stated, due to the time, we need to quickly decide how we would like to distribute the \$300,000 to the community so they will have time to spend the funds before the new budget year. Moving forward, the committee should decide how to work with the community organizations to distribute funds in a way that is transparent and equitable, and also show how the funds impact the communities. We should be able to explain to the constituents why we gave to a specific organization and how it used the taxpayer dollars to impact the community.

Mr. Livingston stated he figured we needed to focus on allocating the \$300,000 available now and then focus on Items 4(b) and (c).

Ms. Barron inquired how urgently we need to move and what we need to do on the budget side.

Mr. Brown stated, on p. 8, there is a timeline. He noted we are already in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the fiscal year. We need to be mindful the organizations will have to submit reports and have them reviewed so the County can be in compliance with how the funds were used. We are looking at a very tight timeline. For some of the organization it may not be realistic to award funding they will need to spend in 2-3 months.

Ms. Barron noted that is one of her concerns. She wants the committee to be conscious of not setting anyone up for failure.

Ms. English inquired if the proposed timeline is based on applications already received.

Mr. Brown responded we will be opening up a new process. This is a different grant opportunity, specific to the Impact Grants. We will be looking at a compressed timeline.

- b. FY23 Lump Sum/ Discretionary Grant Allocations – Ms. English noted all the items were discussed interchangeably.
- c. Current Discretionary Grant Policy – Ms. English noted all the items were discussed interchangeably.

5. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

- a. **Criteria, Application and Schedule for CIG Funds** – Ms. Mackey stated she appreciated staff’s recommendation and realized the timeframe is shorter than normal, but based on the motion, they should work hard to distribute the funds this year.

Ms. McBride voiced her concerns about the shortened timeframe and the possibility they could lose the funds. She inquired if they could make a motion to carry over these funds to the next fiscal year.

Ms. Mackey stated, if they do offer the grants, those who have time and opportunity apply for funds this year and next. She noted some entities applied for discretionary funds and were denied. These entities could submit an edited application to receive Community Impact Grant funds. She would rather put the opportunity out there and allow the organizations to decide versus not allowing them the opportunity altogether.

Ms. McBride inquired if they could do a continuation for the next 6 months to allow the entities time to fully implement their programs.

Mr. Brown stated they presented a schedule of what staff would do if the committee decided to move a recommendation to Council. The Committee would also need to establish award limits. He noted he thought if there were funds leftover, Council could move the remaining funds to a future budget cycle. Too automatically say the organizations will get another six months, would be a preapproved budget process decision without information for the next budget cycle.

Ms. Mackey stated they should keep the process they already use and move forward with the schedule. At the next meeting, they can discuss what they would like for the next budget year.

Ms. Mackey moved to forward to Council with a recommendation to accept staff’s recommendation and time schedule submitted to the committee, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

Ms. Barron noted it needs to be clear to the applicants this is a short-term project.

In Favor: McBride, Livingston, Barron, Mackey and English.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Mackey moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. McBride.

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:36 PM.