

Meeting Minutes – Grants Review Committee

January 18, 2022

Scheduled Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

LOCATION: Zoom Virtual Webinar

Call to Order and Welcome – Grayce Wiggins, Housing Manager. Jennifer Hale, Grants Coordinator.

The meeting began at 6:30 pm.

Attendees: Derek Shiau, Jim Sebastian, Keli Cochran, Mark Swartz, Lucy Moore, Nadine Block, Nicole K. Ferraiolo, Susan Rosenblum, Mike Schoenkem.

Absent:
None

New Member Welcome and Introductions

Grayce Wiggins welcomed new members and discussed the importance of the GRC. She emphasized the GRC's role is to evaluate applications and audit programs for quality. She noted that, due to the pandemic, the needs of residents have changed, and it is critical for the GRC to stay attuned to what is going on in our city and region.

Grayce reminded the GRC to come to meetings ready to participate on camera.

Jen Hale introduced herself to the new members and invited the GRC members to introduce themselves.

Returning GRC members introduced themselves, and each talked about their ward, how long they have lived in the City, what projects they are most excited about, etc.

The new members introduced themselves and asked questions about the GRC, the Quality of Life Grant Program.

Questions and Discussion about Quality of Life Grant Program

Grayce Wiggins and Jennifer Hale answered questions from the new members about the Community Quality of Life Grant Program.

Nadine Bloch provided information about the City's previous partnership with the Takoma Foundation offering mini-grants. Nadine also offered some historical context around the City's prior use of Community Development Block grant funds to support the Quality of Life grant, but that those funds are no longer used in this way.

Lucy Moore asked about how the GRC considers racial equity in its grantmaking. Keli Cochran explained

how the application asks questions about race equity and that the GRC looks at the board and leadership of potential grantees to make sure there is meaningful BIPOC representation, especially when BIPOC communities are being served.

Calendar Update

GRC determined that the first Tuesday of every month would be the standing meeting day going forward. Meetings will be held from 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM on Zoom. This day and time will be reviewed periodically to ensure it is working for all members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM - remaining agenda items will be discussed at the Feb 1, 2022 meeting.