



## FOOD EQUITY MICROGRANT SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

### MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, April 6th, 2023**

The following members of the Food Equity Microgrant Program Selection Committee were present:

***In person***

Maria Schwarz, Committee Chair

***Electronic***

Maddie Judge, Committee Vice Chair

Gina Cornia

Karina Villalba

Cristobal Villegas

James Hunter

The following members were absent:

Xris Macias

Hannah Barton

Also Present:

Monica O'Malley, Committee Secretary

Minutes by Monica O'Malley, Salt Lake City Sustainability Department, Special Projects Assistant

**Meeting Time: 12:00 pm | Time Commenced: 12:58 pm**

#### **1. Approve meeting minutes**

Ms. O'Malley indicated that the meeting time was written incorrectly on the minutes. Ms. Cornia motioned to adopt minutes from the 3/30 meeting with amended time changes. Ms. Villalba seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **2. Updates and discussion on Community Grant applicant funding**

Chair Schwarz explained that the SLC Department of Sustainability contributed \$10,000 towards the Community Grant funding pool. This brought the total funding available for Community Grants to about \$32,000.

Chair Schwarz summarized the committees 3/30 conversations and proposed to fully fund the top 3-5 scoring Community Grants proposals. Ms. Cornia asked how much money would be left over if the Committee were to fully fund the top 5 organizations. Chair Schwarz replied that about \$10,000 would be left over for other organizations.

Ms. Villalba expressed that she agrees with fully funding the top 5 scoring applicants. Vice Chair Judge proposed partially funding to Wasatch Community Gardens due to their high capacity to receive funds. Ms. Villalba expressed she would like to fully fund Wasatch Community Gardens, and Chair Schwarz agreed due to their collaboration with Atres de Mexico.

Mr. Villegas asked the other Committee members what their preferences are in terms of awarding money to nonprofit organizations vs LLCs. Chair Schwarz explained that the grant criteria does not restrict LLCs from receiving funding. Mr. Villegas noted that, although Salt Lake Canning Co. is an LLC, their proposal to donate funding to their community aligns with the purpose of the grant. Mr. Villegas cautioned that there may be LLCs who apply for this type of funding in the future without an intent to benefit their community.

Mr. Villegas asked if there will be follow up with awardees after their projects are implemented. Chair Schwarz replied that the City intends to ask awardees what they were able to accomplish without burdening them with administrative reporting tasks.

Mr Villegas explained he is hesitant to award full funding to the Jayhawks because their organization is on private property. Ms. Villalba lent some knowledge about the Jayhawks to the conversation and suggested that the committee consider funding the food growing aspect of their proposal only. Chair Schwarz observed that most of the community applicants are on private property. Vice Chair Judge mentioned that she is not concerned about organizations being on private property in cases where their impact on the community is potentially huge.

Mr. Hunter asked for clarification on the Somali Community Self Management Agency proposal, and Chair Schwarz provided it. Vice Chair Judge noted that, given their budget, they may still benefit from partial funding and she would feel more confident in their proposal if they had a confirmed location for their community garden.

The Committee discussed whether to partially fund \$1000 to all organizations with scores in the 80-90% range. Mr. Hunter expressed that the Westminster College proposal gave him pause because they have access to other funding sources for their project. Vice Chair Judge said she would like remove Westminster College from consideration for partial funding. All other committee members agreed.

The Committee discussed which one of the organizations with scores the 70-80% range should receive partial funding. Mr. Hunter noted that he is a member of the Wasatch Beekeepers Association, so he is not participating in conversations about their proposal.

Of the organizations that scored in the 70-80% range, Ms. Cornia moved to grant \$1000 in funding to the Somali Community Self Management Agency. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cornia asked how follow up will be conducted with organizations who did not receive funding. Chair Schwarz asked the Committee what they think would be most valuable feedback to give to non-funded applicants. Mr. Hunter responded that the entire scoring matrix and feedback is helpful to see. Ms. Villalba agreed. Chair Schwarz declared that she will be available to provide scoring matrix's, answer questions, and explain the scoring process to organizations that receive partial or no funding.

Ms. Cornia motioned to fund the top 5 scoring applications at their full request and partially fund \$1000 to organizations with scores in the 80-90% range with the exception of Westminster College. Vice Chair Judge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **6. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
Maria Schwarz, Committee Chair

This document and the recording constitute the official minutes of the Food Equity Microgrant Program Selection Committee meeting held April 6, 2023.