

Documenters

POWERED BY CITY BUREAU & SIGNAL CLEVELAND

Budget & Grants Committee Meeting

Documenter name: Lakeisha Smith

Agency: [Cleveland Community Police Commission \(CPC\)](#)

Date: March 11, 2024

[See more about this meeting at Documenters.org](#)

Summary

- The [staffing request](#) for the Budgets and Grants manager was not approved. As a result, the committee had to explore options to reduce the burden of reviewing and processing a large number of grant applications.
- The majority of the meeting was used to discuss the 2024 Grants Program.
- In the end, utilizing intermediaries as a way to disburse the grants and reduce the burden for the committee appeared to have unanimous support amongst the committee members.

Follow-Up Questions

- With the Budget and Grants Committee being in its second year of giving grant funding, what is the most efficient way for the committee to gain in-depth knowledge of the grant process in order to streamline it without the use of intermediaries?
- Would it be a conflict of interest to adopt a grant funding process from an intermediary organization that is successful in grant funding?

Notes

The [Budget & Grants Committee](#) meeting started at 6:39 p.m. and ended at 7:39 p.m.

Committee members in attendance:

- Piet van Lier (commissioner)
- Cait Kennedy (commissioner)
- Alana Garrett-Ferguson (**elected chair of the committee**)
- John Adams (chair of the committee)
- Jason Goodrick (CPC interim executive director)

Grant process update:

The interim executive director said five organizations “are complete” to go to Finance and Accounting to get set up in the system as a vendor. Several other organizations are still working to complete their documentation and are at various stages of completing the forms. Goodrick said he believes these organizations could be set up to receive their grants as soon as two weeks, but it could take as long as six weeks.

Committee Co-chair Alana Garrett-Ferguson asked if anything can be done to help speed up the process for grantees. Goodrick suggested that Garrett-Ferguson write a letter to the [mayor](#) and the [director of Finance](#) to assist in pushing the process forward.

Manager process update:

The [staffing request](#) for the Budgets and Grants manager was not approved.

The committee originally asked City Council for \$150,000 for a staff member and grants software but was willing to lessen that amount to around \$100,000 to secure a budget and grants manager. Goodrick said City Council completed the [budget reconciliation process](#) with \$90,000 left in the budget but did not consider the option of budgeting for a grants manager for the Budget and Grants Committee.

As a result, the committee will have to explore options to reduce the burden of reviewing and processing a large number of grant applications.

Grants survey update:

Garrett-Ferguson said the grant survey asks about people’s experience with the grants process. The committee discussed the [timeframe](#) of when the survey should go out as well as who would get the survey (i.e community members, grantee applicants, grantees, commissioner, etc...)

2024 CPC grants program update:

The Budget and Grants Committee explored several aspects of the grant funding.

- What criteria should be used?
- What options are needed to manage the grants?
- Who would be eligible to apply to be an intermediary?
- What would be the interview process of the intermediaries?
- How to limit the amount of grants disbursed

- What the process of taking the grants to council would be
- Could there be a process in place to get the funding disbursed sooner?

Commissioner Piet Van Lier did extensive research on using third-party assistance to disburse grant funding and [shared](#) the benefits of this option.

Commissioner Cait Kennedy said City Council and the community support utilizing a third party.

One of the [concerns](#) with this option was that, even though this may smooth out the application process, a similar government grant process was done through an intermediary and grantees have yet to collect their money, according to Garrett-Ferguson.

The committee also [discussed](#) how to keep the authority of the final disbursements within the commission while using an intermediary. Goodrick said they needed to consider this because the city charter mandates that the commission administer the budget and grants program.

Some of the other challenges discussed were who could apply to be an intermediary and a way to prevent or minimize competition between grant applicants while utilizing intermediaries. Garrett-Ferguson asked what was to prevent organizations from applying for the grants through multiple intermediaries.

Garrett-Ferguson also [spoke](#) about being strategic with how they announce a request for proposals for a grant intermediary in order to reduce the volume of applications the committee would need to review and consider.

Goodrick shared some [tips](#) on the strategies that could be used to limit the number of applicants. One of the strategies he mentioned was setting criteria and parameters that would be specific to more financially qualified companies who could apply to be an intermediary.

In the end, utilizing intermediaries as a way to disburse the grants and reduce the burden for the committee appeared to have unanimous support among the committee members.

Public comment

One member of the public did speak for about a minute before the meeting came to an

end and was adjourned.

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at cleDOCUMENTERS@gmail.com with "Correction Request" in the subject line.