

**Bancroft Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 4, 2010**

Present: Matthew Ayers, Andy Hestness, Evette McCarthy, George Moore, Jacque Passow, Daniel Rauchman, Mike Simons, Ryan Sturtz, Celia Kutz

Absent: Neal Baxter, Emmett Bryant, Holly Hinman, Rebecca Rayman, Keith Twist, Julie Zamora

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Meeting called to order by Jacque Passow at 7:01 PM

Matthew presented a revised version of the application form for the Neighborhood Initiated Grant program that was developed by the Special Projects Committee. He noted that changes had been made to the last paragraph of the introduction. The proposed version noted that funds would not pay for labor or time. Mike mentioned that the grant had previously paid for labor for youth to paint senior's garages. He stressed that the language must match the original contract language. Jacque noted that if the BNA board wanted to change the rules for the program, it could do that with a contract amendment. The group reached consensus to change the language to a "preference" to not pay for labor or time with the grant. Matthew also noted that language was added to the form to indicate that funds could not be used to pay for food, per NRP rules, and that a question had been added requesting a description of how applicants will measure success with their proposed activities.

Motion to approve the revise the Neighborhood Initiated Grant application form as presented by the Special Projects Committee with the change of a "preference" for applications that do not pay for labor or time by Yvette McCarthy; seconded by Ryan Sturtz. Passes unanimously.

Matthew presented the request of the Phelps Activities Council for a Neighborhood Initiated Grant. The council has received \$5,000 previously. This is a new request for money to support youth sports programs. The proposal included some costs that have already been spent, which is not allowed under the grant guidelines. This proposal also appears to be transitioning to ongoing support rather than one-time support, and this is not the purpose of the grant. It is also unclear what percentage of the participants are from the Bancroft Neighborhood. It is the recommendation of the Special Projects Committee to deny the application because of these reasons. Matthew stressed that the intention of the grant is to support grassroots efforts in the community that build lasting improvements or lasting relationships.

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Special Projects Committee and deny the Phelps Activities Council application for a Neighborhood

Initiated Grant by George Moore; seconded by Mike Simons. Passes unanimously.

Matthew presented the application for Urban Arts Academy to the Neighborhood Initiated Grant program. This application included a considerable amount for artist fees and a community supper. These costs totaling \$3,600 would not be eligible under the program. Celia noted that Bancroft Neighborhood Association already has a partnership with Urban Arts Academy with State Arts Board funds. The application covers 6 events. Matthew posed the question for future board discussion regarding if the board wants to continue to fund events with the Neighborhood Initiated Grant program or to focus on proposals that have a more lasting impact. George noted that like the Phelps Activities Council, this application is from an organization. It is the goal of the grant program to support grassroots initiatives, and funding established organizations is not the main focus of the grant. The Special Projects Committee recommends denying the application, and asking them to resubmit an application that does not include ineligible items.

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Special Projects Committee and deny the Urban Arts Academy application for a Neighborhood Initiated Grant by Mike Simons; seconded by George Moore. Passes unanimously.

Matthew presented the Mosaic application to install mosaic tile on 6 trash cans in the neighborhood at locations that were not yet identified. The Special Projects Committee felt that the costs included in the proposal were high. Jacque noted a concern about maintenance. There was no provision in the application for the long-term maintenance of the trash cans after installation. The artist leading the project does not live in the neighborhood, but does work in the neighborhood and also would work with participants from the neighborhood on this project.

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Special Projects Committee and deny the Mosaic project application for a Neighborhood Initiated Grant by Mike Simons; seconded by Daniel Rauchman. Passes unanimously.

Matthew presented the 11th Avenue proposal. This proposal focused on the newly installed diverter at 40th Street and 11th Avenue on the RiverLake Greenway. The proposal was to host a series of block parties to plant and maintain the landscaping of the diverter. The committee noted that some of the costs seemed high, such as street closure permits. Child care was included in the proposal, and would be considered an ineligible labor costs. The proposal also included the rental of a “moonwalk” children’s play area, which the committee did not feel was an essential element of the proposal. The committee and board felt that overall the proposal was something they wanted to support, but that the proposal should be revised to address the concerns about cost. The board also discussed working with the city to get street closure fees waived for the maintenance

of landscaping along the RiverLake Greenway. Matthew Agreed to contact Councilmember Glidden to discuss the fee waiver.

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Special Projects Committee and deny the 11th Avenue and 40th Street application for a Neighborhood Initiated Grant and write a letter encouraging them to reapply with revisions and with information regarding waiving street closure fees by Mike Simons; seconded by George Moore. Passes unanimously.

Matthew revisited the request from Diva Suave for the Bancroft Neighborhood Association to serve as fiscal agent for her fundraising work to become a non-profit organization. The application was received in April and the board requested more information from Diva Suave. A motion was never made to agree for BNA to serve as fiscal agent. Diva Suave believed that BNA had agreed, and set up a Razoo account online to begin fundraising utilizing BNA's information. From that account Diva Suave received one donation for \$10, which Bancroft passed along to Diva Suave with a letter stating that BNA had not approved serving as fiscal agent. Matthew indicated that it was not the role of the BNA to serve as an incubator for non-profits. The Special Projects Committee recommends that BNA formally decline to serve as fiscal agent for Diva Suave.

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Special Projects Committee and deny the Diva Suave request for the Bancroft Neighborhood Association to serve as fiscal agent by Mike Simons; seconded by Ryan Sturtz. Passes unanimously.

Celia asked if the board should be more specific about the purpose of the Neighborhood Initiated Grant in the application. Board members also voiced concern that the application form meet the language in the original contract. Matthew proposed the board remove the approval of the Neighborhood Initiated Grant application form as passed earlier in the meeting so that the language can be changed to reflect the original contract and to state that the grant is not intended to fund organizations.

Yvette McCarthy requested to withdraw her initial motion to approve the form. Ryan Sturtz agreed with this request.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jacque Passow, President

Keith Twist, Secretary