

Meeting to Explore Expansion of the Small Grants Program

April 9, 2009

Attendees: K-Lynn Cameron, Kerri Rollins, Sue Burke, Sue Sparling, Trudy Haines, Nancy Wallace

The group discussed and brainstormed how to expand the Small Grants Program to improve ways which connect people to the land, to increase the support base, and to increase interaction with new sectors of our communities with which we have not historically interacted. How can we take a “whole communities” approach to what we are doing, in which we broaden the use of small grants, increase community partnerships, and broaden the market?

The overarching messages are to connect people to the land, and to build partnerships and relationships with other community entities to do so. We need to look at this through a “land lens.” One of our parts could be in bringing “land” to the table.

We need to reach other communities, e.g., low income, community gardens, local food production, agriculture, increased access to open spaces, health and education programs, children in nature, etc. Those community partnerships could include: Nutrition Network, Neighbor-to-Neighbor, gardening for low income communities, city programs, health and wellness programs through the hospitals, etc. We need to find out what they need, in what way can we partner, and how we can update this program to provide that.

Another option is to fund research on open spaces. Current requested research projects on our properties are usually looking for *locations* to do the research, not for funding; and, they are most often for cultural and natural resources studies. Research projects which would relate to how people connect with the land (social research) could fit with the proposed SGP expansion.

Education at and transportation to open spaces could be another area of expansion: e.g., getting people out to the land for nature-based health and awareness, transporting children out to open spaces for experiences, etc.

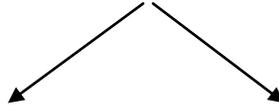
We want to make sure that we do not lose the strengths of the current Small Grants Program in which our grantees are taking care of and protecting land. With that as a goal, we need to keep what we have and grow it by steps to include the new direction.

Budgeted funding for the SGP has been increased to \$20,000.

An idea is proposed that the expanded Small Grants Program be renamed to the “Community Partnership Program.” The goals are to connect people to the land and to develop community partnerships to do so. The program would have two sections: 1) “Small Grants,” which would put money into the community in the current manner, and would be expanded to include other ways to connect people to the land, and 2) “Building Community Partnerships,” which would explore community programs, develop partnerships, and find ways small-grant funds can help to implement common goals. (See next page for diagram of proposed new structure and for further issues.)

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

(Connecting People to the Land)



Small Grants (\$20,000?)		Building Community Partnerships (\$xxx?)	
Proposed expansion:		Proposed expansion:	
		Partnering with other community organizations	
Agriculture (non-profit)		Agriculture (non-profit)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community gardens • Local food production • Infrastructure & tools 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community gardens • Local food production • Infrastructure & tools
Increased Access to Open Lands		Increased Access to Open Lands	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Nature-based health and wellness programs • Transportation • Children 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Nature-based health and wellness programs • Transportation • Children
Research in Open Spaces		Research in Open Spaces	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which people – which lands – how – who will be served/benefit (outcome oriented) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which people – which lands – how – who will be served/benefit (outcome oriented)
Current small grants program (protection/enhancement of open spaces, wildlife habitat, etc.)			

Many issues must be addressed and decided before recommendations can be made. What changes are needed to the SGP criteria and parameters? How would the \$20,000 be allocated? Would it be allocated only to the competitive small grants process? Would part of it be designated for the current SGP criteria and part of it the expanded mission? Would a portion be allocated for discretionary awards (exclusive of the competitive process) as a result of Building Community Partnerships? What type of monitoring would be required? What are the criteria for community partnerships? ...and lots of others! The sub-committee will start addressing these issues at its next meeting. Sue Burke will start work on wording of SGP mission, criteria, and parameters.