

John M. Scott Health Care Commission February 2023 Meeting Minutes

02/23/2023 via Zoom

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Karen Stipp, Karen Schmidt, Angela Chasensky, Catharine Crockett, Adam Houghton, Judy Neubrandner, Carla Pohl, and Feli Sebastian.

Commissioners Absent: Kyana Wilkinson, Elaine Hardy, and Brad Secord.

Staff: William Bessler (Staff Administrator and Community Enhancement Division Grants Coordinator).

Call to Order

Chairperson Stipp called the meeting to order at 7:01PM CST and asked Staff Administrator Bessler for a roll call. Mr. Bessler called the roll. Quorum present.

Consent Agenda

Chairperson Stipp asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Sebastian motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Treasurer Schmidt seconded the motion. Chairperson Stipp called for a voice vote after there was no discussion regarding the consent agenda. In the opinion of the Presiding Officer, the Ayes had it and the motion passes. Ayes: Stipp, Schmidt, Chasensky, Houghton, Neubrandner, Pohl, and Sebastian. Noes: None. Abstains: None. Presents: None. Motion passed.

Action Items

Acceptance of ABC Counseling and Family Services/Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal Fiscal Year 2024 Award Withdrawal: Chairperson Stipp briefly introduced the action item. ABC Counseling and Family Services (ABC Counseling) emailed staff in late January that they could not accept the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024) award. Staff and Commissioners had several meetings and other correspondence with both organizations regarding the withdrawal request. Based on information from different communications, it became clear the partnership between the two organizations for this grant would not be functional for FY2024. ABC Counseling formally requested to withdraw from the FY2024 award. Chairperson Stipp opened the floor for discussion. Staff indicated operational issues were the primary cause for the partnership's end. Unethical actions or non-compliance with previous grant were not factors in this partnership's failure. Although there was initial confusion and a lack of information provided by both organizations, needed information was eventually provided.

Commissioner Chasensky asked if funds had been dispersed for this grant. Staff confirmed that no funds for FY2024 have been dispersed. Originally, the plan was for grant agreements to be brought before the Commission for approval in this meeting, but the withdrawal request has pushed back that timeline. Allocated funds should be dispersed on schedule in May 2023.

Mr. Bessler further clarified that both organizations attempted to find a way to make the partnership for FY2024 work, but they were unable to reach a solution. Both organizations intend to finish the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY2023) grant. Staff reminded the Commission that all of the correspondence related to this withdrawal request is included in the meeting packet.

Treasurer Schmidt indicated that she would abstain from voting on the action item due to a conflict of interest. She was disappointed regarding some of the language used when staff was alerted to this withdrawal request. Additionally, Treasurer Schmidt expressed disappointment that the children benefiting from the grant would lose the services provided with the grant. Treasurer Schmidt asked staff if the intention was to finish the FY2023 grant. Staff confirmed both organizations would finish the FY2023 grant.

Commissioner Chasensky thanked staff and members of the Grants Committee for providing additional information that was not included in the correspondence. Commissioner Crockett asked if the operational issues related to privacy were unethical. Chairperson Stipp and Treasurer Schmidt provided information related to the challenges with the building and limitations the building has for activities related to the grant. Commissioner Sebastian expressed that she also believes that the issues described in correspondence were operational in nature.

With no further discussion, Chairperson Stipp asked if there was a motion and a second for the action item. Commissioner Houghton motioned to approve the action item as presented. Commissioner Chasensky seconded the motion. Chairperson Stipp asked staff to conduct a roll call vote. Ayes: Stipp, Chasensky, Crockett, Houghton, Neubrandner, Pohl, and Sebastian. Noes: None. Abstains: Schmidt. Presents: None. Motion passed.

Chairperson Stipp stated that the Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal invited Commissioners to visit the facility. Chairperson Stipp state she would work to arrange the visit.

Discussion Items

Potential Revision to Fiscal Year 2024 Awards: Chairperson Stipp introduced the discussion item noting that with the previous vote there are unallocated funds available for FY2024. Staff has provided four options for the Commission to consider. Option one would be to split the funding evenly among the awarded organizations up to their requested amount. Option two would be to provide some awarded organizations with additional funding. Option three would be to recommend an unfunded applicant from this funding cycle. Option four would be to not award the \$40,000.00 to any organization.

Commissioner Neubrandner was not in favor of option one or four. Commissioner Chasensky, Crockett, Houghton, Pohl, and Sebastian concurred with Commissioner Neubrandner. Chairperson Stipp was not in favor of option three because the Grants Committee spent

significant time reviewing applications and did not feel any application was not funded for financial constraints alone. Chairperson Stipp favored option two. Treasurer Schmidt concurred.

Commissioner Chasensky inquired about applications the Grants Committee was generally favorable towards but had concerns about the language or structure of the application. Chairperson Stipp and Treasurer Schmidt provided insight into how some of the decisions were formulated within the Grants Committee. Commissioner Chasensky favored option two.

Mr. Bessler thanked the Commission for discussing the issue. He stated staff would present options based on option two since that was the option generally favored by most Commissioners. Staff will also reach out to the Trustee's legal team to determine the best course of actions to modify the resolution passed by City Council for the FY2024 awards in January. There was no further discussion on this item.

Project Oz Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Update: Chairperson Stipp provided a quick update on the FY2023 funds provided to Project Oz. Unfortunately, costs have dramatically increased for their project due to inflation and supply chain issues. The grantee is seeking additional funding to cover that cost increase. The grantee also requested a change in use of Trust funds from what was in the application. This request was reviewed by Chairperson Stipp, Vice-Chairperson Wilkinson, and staff. After reviewing the information, all concurred that no amendments to the grant agreement were needed and the change fit within the current agreement scope and intent.

Commissioner Houghton asked if the grantee was seeking additional funding from the Trust. Chairperson Stipp stated their request did not include additional funds from the Trust. There was no further discussion on this item.

Category III Request for Proposal Launch Update: Mr. Bessler provided an update on the number of applications received so far for this program. At the time of the meeting there were at least three applicants. Staff Administrator Bessler stated one of the confirmed applicants has never applied for Trust funds before to his knowledge. There was no further discussion on this item.

Non-Discussion Items

Mr. Bessler apologized for some of the challenges related to staff transitions within the Community Enhancement Division. Nominal operations will resume soon.

No further discussion was held.

Adjournment

Commissioner Chasensky motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Crockett seconded the motion. Chairperson Stipp called for a voice vote. In the opinion of the Presiding Officer, the Ayes had it and the motion passes. Ayes: Stipp, Schmidt, Chasensky, Crockett, Houghton, Neubrandner, Pohl, and Sebastian. Noes: None. Abstains: None. Presents: None. Motion passed.