

Southside Vision 2020 Steering Committee
NOTES
April 3, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Dean Donaher, Anne Evans, Louis Intile, Glenn Koehler, Adrienne McNeil, Don Miles, Gail Mrowinski, Donna Taggart, Tom Stine, Danielle Kulnis

STAFF: Alan Jennings, Ellen Larmer, Alicia Karner, Tracy Samuelson, Anna Smith, Chris Cassidy

GUESTS: Ed Gallagher, Ron Unger

NOTES RECORDED BY: Anna Smith

In committee chair Mayor Donchez's absence, Danielle Kulnis called the meeting to order at 8:25 am.

Meeting Notes

Minutes from the February 6, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Dean moved to accept the minutes, and the motion was passed unanimously with no objections or corrections.

Program Year 2019-2020 Proposal Review

Danielle provided background information on the proposal process, reminding committee members that proposals must be implemented between July 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020. Projects should align with the *Southside Vision Master Plan 2014-2024*, and there are \$120,000 in discretionary funds available. She asked each committee chair to provide an overview of proposed projects and answer any immediate questions about proposals.

Business and Economic Sustainability

Donna provided an overview of requests from the committee:

Southside Entrepreneur Networking Events - \$2,000

Southside Ambassadors Extension - \$50,000.

Development

Ron presented on behalf of the committee, highlighting the funding requested and explaining projects' alignment with the Southside Vision Master Plan.

Southside Lighting Plan Implementation - \$60,000

Park Improvements and Ongoing Maintenance of Physical Improvements - \$3,500

Summer Academy at Lehigh Valley Charter Arts - \$1,000.

Housing

Anne presented on behalf of the committee, describing the impact of previous investment on Hayes Street and the committee's plans to continue investment through the following proposals:

Facade Improvements - \$30,000

Part-Time Housing Organizer Position - \$20,000

Tool Library and Southside Gardening Alliance - \$8,100.

Outdoors and Wellness

Don presented the committee's proposals and reminded the group that Youth Programming and Community Festivals includes eight smaller proposals.

Tool Library and Southside Gardening Alliance - \$8,100

Youth Programming and Community Festivals - \$20,832

Fowler Family Southside Center Dental Rooftop Garden - \$2,338

Southside Exercise Loops - \$1,000

Anne provided background information on the success of tool libraries in other cities, and Donna suggested that the committee could potentially work with St. Luke's University Health Network to support the NCC gardening project and the Greenway exercise loops.

Transforming Community Image

Glenn presented the committee's proposals, highlighting the ongoing successes of the Southside Proud campaign.

Southside Proud Campaign - Year 3 - \$50,000

Community Street Art Wall - \$5,000

Southside Ambassadors Extension - \$10,000

The committee discussed the street art wall at length, including location, potential partners, and other funding sources for the project.

Discussion

Following committee chair presentations, members discussed how to select projects to fund.

Other funding sources were discussed to support projects such as the NCC garden, youth programming, and exercise loops. Tom committed to discussing these projects with St. Luke's.

The committee reviewed the projects with the highest cost, and discussed the implementation of the Southside lighting plan. Several members expressed a reluctance to fund the project given the lack of clarity on the cost of implementing the first phase of the project, as well as the feeling that \$60,000 would be insufficient to fund a demonstration street.

The committee discussed the Southside Ambassadors program and voted to cut the allocation in half. Because the program is funded by the hour, any reduction in funding will correspond to an equivalent reduction in services. BEDCO will pursue additional funding sources to support the extension through 2020, but funding is not guaranteed.

After additional discussion to clarify details of the proposed lighting plan implementation, committee members voted not to fund the project.

Dean proposed cutting funding for scholarships for the Summer Academy at Charter Arts, mentioning that historically Southside Vision has funded programs that are implemented at schools, but never schools directly. Members also expressed that this proposal should have come through the Outdoors and Wellness committee to be considered along with other youth programming proposals.

Finally, the committee proposed eliminating funding for the street art wall with the understanding that Alan would provide support seeking alternate funding sources for the project.

The funding amount for exercise loops was reduced to \$568 to reach the final allocation target of \$120,000.

Next meeting: June 5, 2019 at 8:15 am in the Risbon Room of the Banana Factory.