

Neighborhood Improvement Grant Scoring Committee

February 16, 2024; 12pm

Present:

Kalina Pritchard, Neighborhood Specialist
Melissa Glueckert, Neighborhood Specialist
Gracie Sanford, Lower Rattlesnake
Colleen Biehl, Lewis & Clark
Claire Battaglia, Lewis & Clark
Jenn Worrell, Franklin to the Fort

Totals send in email is both external and internal committee's.

Scoring order after both internal and external committees:

Scores: (Score received / total points)

1. Franklin Elementary Garden Expansion: 1209 / 1400
2. Native Plant Garden: 1188 / 1400
3. Garden City Harvest Free Food Pantry: 1156 / 1400
4. Kiwanis Park: 1122 / 1400
5. MDF Underbridge Painting: 985 / 1400
6. Free Food Garden Workshop: 855 / 1400

Typically, top scoring projects the office tries to fund fully.

Franklin School Garden Expansion:

Project cost is \$21,300, Requesting \$6,000

Colleen- Grant well written. Think it is a huge gain.

Claire- Like the volunteer part, looks like they already have this together (not having to search for volunteers).

Grace- Feels weird about grants going to school grounds.

Kalina- The grant is used for neighbors to do something, not necessarily for organizations or schools. There has been tentative hesitation for funding these because they have other ways to gain this money whereas neighbors don't really have these avenues.

Colleen- The school has been a huge community center place, acts more than just a school.

Kalina- Meadow Hill put in grant last year for garden expansion, got the money but nothing had been done on it yet.

Committee is in agreement of funding in full but will reconsider after talking about all grant apps.

Clark Fork Native Prairie Garden Sign Project

Project cost is \$17,169.86, Requesting \$5,819.86

Kalina- Like they gave the specific amount requested, shows that they are not just requesting a random amount of money but rather know exactly what they are going to spend it on. Lincoln Lake from P&R had good comments on this: project feasibility, maintenance, will be maintained by parks. Gave project a 100 percent.

Colleen-Another great place for money for our community. Its in the University district but it is kind of downtown too, used by many Missoulian's not just in the neighborhood.

Claire- Felt like it was a good community resource. Application as well done. Liked the survey.

Grace- Agreed

Jenn- Used this place a lot and sees that it is neglected. Feels this is a lot of money for signs.

Committee is in agreement of funding in full but will reconsider after talking about all grant apps.

Garden City Harvest Free Food Pantry

Project cost is \$3,600, Requesting \$3,600

Parks and Rec did not rate this project very high. There is no bear proof design, and P&R has previously declined requests to put food pantries in parks.

Claire- No mention of people stalking up pantry, not sure they outlined the sustainability of this project.

Jenn- Application says that is it by northside park, not technically in the park.

Colleen- Fear of bears but also other animals. Need to know the cost of bear proofing if they are going to do that/need that.

Kalina will check in with Lincoln at Parks & Rec to see if they have a say in this.

Jenn- There are free food pantries around town, and as far as they know the issue of animals has not been an issue.

Claire- Want more information on this. If the city is phasing in bear proofing.

Group will not make decision until more info is given, if the parks and rec gives the OK then groups feels this should be funded in full.

Kiwanis Park Front Street Gateway

Project is \$7,000, requesting \$6,000.

This is not the project itself; it is a planning project this is to work with the consultant to get space shovel ready.

Kalina- We have done these in the past but we are trying to get away from these kinds of projects. Like to see projects that will pop up in a year or two.

Colleen- They have so many grants fishing around and have so much money. Would rather have this plan paid by something else and have our grants help to actually put in the physical improvements.

Jenn- I didn't realize this was just planning for the plan.

Kalina- we funded something similar to this for Fairviews/Pattee Canyon and the park is around 10 years from being build. However, this project does have a masterplan so it will likely be done sooner.

Claire- I like this project and the idea of it but agree with colleen that its not quite ready. I would be okay with funding this partially.

Group is for partially funding this but will consider how much after going though all the apps.

Underbridge Painting

Project cost is \$6,500, requested \$6,000.

Kalina- Still need a permit from MDT, this can take a really long time and they could say no. This project had no letters of support.

Grace- Didn't have a good breakdown of their supplies so I am not sure I am comfortable funding this.

Colleen- do they have to go through the public art committee?

Kalina- If they want to hire an artist they have to go through them.

Claire- Mentioned 500 volunteer hours but no plan for who will do this and no commitment from anyone yet.

Jenn- No clear design, no idea who they would hire. Would it be a local artist, or would it be someone from out of state? Worried about safety. If kids are going to play basketball under the bridge, and the ball rolls into the river. Who is looking to make sure they are not going after it?

Group is not necessarily in favor of funding this, but will consider partial funding after going through all applications.

Free Food Garden Workshop

Project is \$1,363, Requested \$1,363.

Great goals, not very clear of what the workshop would entail. Project doesn't start until 2025.

Jenn- Thought it was interesting, but too vague. Not sure the future of it. Great idea but needs more specifics.

Colleen- Not quite developed yet.

Grace- Not too concerned with the course curriculum but unsure why they would not start the project until 2025.

Kalina- Good chance to take more time and then resubmit next year.

Colleen- Should clarify if they meant 2025 or 2024.

Claire- Only project I would be willing to take money from to fund this is the underbridge project. Volunteer hours not fleshed out.

Kalina- The application itself didn't have community support around it. Didn't connect with garden city harvest. Worry about giving them flexibility when we are not doing this for all other groups. But before we make decisions on it, we should go through the funding.

2024 Grant Applications						
Rank	Grant Project	Total Budget	Recommended - 1	Recommended - 2	Requested	
1	Franklin Elementary Garden Expansion	\$ 21,300.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
2	Clark Fork Native Prairie Sign Project	\$ 17,169.86	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,819.86	
3	Northside Community Garden Food Pantry	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,600.00	
4	Renovation of the Front Street Gateway to Kiwanis Park	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
5	Beartracks Underbridge Playspace Art Project	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
6	Teaching/Learning Permaculture Free Food Garden	\$ 1,673.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,673.00	
	TOTAL:	\$ 57,242.86	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 29,092.86	

We only have \$20,000 to give out. The recommendations above came from the neighborhoods office.

Grant Project	Committee Recommendation
Franklin Elementary Garden Expansion	\$6,000
Clark Fork Native Prairie Sign Project	\$5,800
Northside Community Garden Food Pantry	\$3,600
Renovation of the Front Street Gateway to Kiwanis Park	\$4,600
Beartracks Underbridge Playspace Art Project	\$0
Teaching/Learning Permaculture Free Food Garden	\$0

Fund the above, with condition that Kiwanis Park can get the rest of their project funded. If the answers to any questions the committee chooses to ask regarding projects drastically changes the outcome of the project the committee can make new recommendations.

Moved by: Grace Sanford, 2nd by Jenn Worrell. All in favor, no objections.