

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Grant Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 4th, 2021

1 **Supervisors Present**, Burr Mosby– Chair, Kirstin Haugen

2 **Associate Supervisors Present:** None.

3 **Guests Present:** None

4 **Staff Present:** Jessica Saavedra, Deirdre Grace, Mary Embleton

5 **Preliminary Matters:**

6 Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm by Burr Mosby.

7 Saavedra reviewed the City of Seattle recommended applications with the grant subcommittee. She went
8 through each proposal sharing concerns and strengths. Several of the proposals include equipment
9 purchases in their budget that have traditionally been ineligible KCD grant expenses. Examples include
10 requests for a generator, ice machine, and aquaponics equipment. Saavedra discussed the need for a more
11 robust equipment policy for the Member Jurisdiction grant program and mentioned she will work on this
12 in consultation with Eric Frimodt and will draw from existing policies in place. A component of this policy
13 will need to include a clause about moving equipment as well. The subcommittee discussed advising the
14 applicants to investigate leasing equipment, consider where equipment will be stored during the off-season
15 and how the equipment will be used by other programs.

16 Regarding the African Community Housing and Development Farmers Market project the subcommittee
17 recommended it for funding except for the ice machine and generator items in the grant budget.

18 Saavedra presented the details of the Black Star Farmers Walker Street Aquaponics and Greenhouse
19 project. The subcommittee expressed concerns about the tentative permission granted by the landowner
20 and the possibility that the land could be sold at any time. The subcommittee said the timeline didn't seem
21 long enough to do what they have proposed, especially community building. The subcommittee
22 recommended that the group have a contingency plan in case the property is sold and KCD will write up
23 something that requires that equipment installed on the property be moved to a location and used by similar
24 project. Saavedra was asked to contact the applicant and ask for more information about the context in
25 terms of the relationship with the property owner and long-term intent.

26 Saavedra contacted Marcus Henderson with Black Star Farmers and asked him if he had any indication if
27 the land will be sold soon and if the property owner (AfricaTown Community Land Trust) planned to
28 utilize elements of the grant project in the future development. Saavedra also asked if the equipment could
29 be easily moved if the land was sold. Henderson responded that the property has been vacant for a long
30 time and is almost impossible to develop. He said ideally, they would have the land for 5 years but if they
31 lose the space, they could move the equipment elsewhere such as to their more permanent location at the
32 MLK Center. He said the aquaponics and greenhouse equipment are movable and they would construct it
33 in a way that it will be easily moved off site, if needed. Other elements such as raised beds and cobb shed
34 are made from earthen materials that would not create waste and could easily be deconstructed. Henderson

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors

Grant Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 4th, 2021

35 said that Black Star Farmers relationship with AfricaTown is new, they are open to a new vision for the
36 site, but they need to see a demonstrated benefit from this project. If the project goes well, AfricaTown
37 will consider an extension of the tentative agreement and incorporating green rooftops or other gardening
38 features on other sites. Henderson said that both groups recognize the opportunity the space offers to
39 activate a very neglected parcel and spreading the word about backyard gardening and the history of Black
40 urban farming is important to them. Finally, Henderson stated that Black Star Farmers are a roving band
41 of farmers that are flexible and used to having to be mobile.

42 Based on this conversation with Henderson, Saavedra recommended writing up additional agreement
43 language stipulating that the aquaponics and greenhouse equipment will be moved to a pre-determined
44 site if the land is sold or KCD will be reimbursed for the cost of the equipment. She stated that equipment
45 only makes up ~\$9,000 of the \$71,000 budget. Mosby and Haugen stated via email dated 1/5/21 that they
46 felt satisfied with the answers and recommendations Saavedra provided, and they agreed that the
47 application should be recommended for approval.

48 *Applications*

49 **Haugen moved, Mosby seconded, unanimously passed a motion to recommend the following list of**
50 **KCD-Seattle Community Partnership grant applications recommended by the City of Seattle for**
51 **approval at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.**

Organization Name	Project Name	Grant Amount
African Community Housing & Development	Farmers Market for the Delridge African Diaspora Immigrant & Refugee Community	\$71,645.00
Black Star Farmers	Walker Street Aquaponics Gardening Lab	\$71,747.00
Hip Hop is Green	Cherry Street Farm, Lab & Culinary Anthropology Project	\$71,747.00
Urban Teen	Resilience, Innovation and Sustainability in a Changing World	\$67,367.00
Na'ah Illahee Fund	Daybreak Star Restoration for Sovereign Futures	\$71,747.00
Villa Comunitaria	Salsa De La Vida	\$71,747.00
		\$426,000.00

53 Amendments - none

54 Close outs - none

55 **Haugen moved; Mosby seconded unanimously passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5 pm**

56
57 

58 Authorized Signature

2-9-2021

Date