

Charitable Trust Committee

Meeting Minutes for September 1, 2022 via Videoconference/Teleconference and In-Person

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Catherine Shannon, Co-Chair
Designee for State Treasurer Michael Frerichs

Erica Spangler Raz, Co-Chair
Designee for Attorney General Kwame Raoul

Ariana Correa (via videoconference)
Designee for Illinois Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton

Angie Skinner (via videoconference)
Designee for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Shelmun Dashan (via videoconference)
Designee for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Andreason Brown (via videoconference)

Joan Dixon (via videoconference)

Dale Morrissey (via videoconference)

Butch Trusty (via videoconference)

Patricia Mota (via videoconference)

TREASURER'S STAFF

Alex Armour, Director of Charitable Trust
Illinois State Treasurer's Office

Jennifer Olaya, Assistant General Counsel (via videoconference)
Illinois State Treasurer's Office

Nelson Oquendo, Network Support Technician
Illinois State Treasurer's Office

1) Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Catherine Shannon at 3:00 PM.

Alex Armour called the roll

A quorum (10 members) was present.

2) Approval of Minutes from June 2, 2022

Joan Dixon moved to approve the minutes. Andreason Brown seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3) Update on Spring 2022 & Fall 2021 Grantees

Alex Armour gave an update on Spring 2022 finalists and Fall 2021 grantees.

4) Fall 2022 Grant Application Status and Evaluation Timeline

Alex Armour shared an update on current applications and went over the staff and committee review process. Committee members will be given the month of November to complete application reviews.

5) Report on the Charitable Trust Fund

Alex Armour provided an update on the Charitable Trust Fund balance, and fund revenues and expenditures.

6) Focus Area and Scoring Criteria Discussion

Alex Armour reviewed the current focus areas and scoring criteria. Committee members had stated previously that scoring applicants across the three focus areas presented challenges with scoring and limiting or alternating the grant opportunity focus areas would allow the committee to score applicants more effectively.

Erica Spangler Raz agreed it would be easier to evaluate and score applications, but expressed concern that one category would not be eligible for an entire calendar year. She also shared a concern about the geographic distribution of organizations, that some categories may be more concentrated in rural or urban areas.

Joan Dixon stated that she felt in East Central Illinois, organizations in all three focus areas were well represented, and that having a grant cycle focus on one focus area would be more effective.

Dale Morrissey echoed Joan Dixon's comment and stated that sometimes scoring the applications is like comparing apples and oranges. Dale also expressed a preference for direct service organizations. Dale also noted that limiting to a single focus area would mean some organizations would have to wait 18 months before applying again.

Catherine Shannon mentioned that a large number of organizations that have applied focus on both food and housing. Catherine mentioned that we had a single grant cycle where we focused only on Food Programs and Housing Programs during the start of the pandemic.

Erica Spangler Raz commented that with the additional challenges of the pandemic, the decision to exclude Economic and Workforce Development made sense, but that it is a category that should be included in the future.

Andreason Brown shared that he personally felt it was challenging to judge an essential food program versus a housing or Workforce and Economic Development program. He echoed Dale's sentiment of "judging apples to apples."

Joan Dixon emphasized the great need for food and housing programs.

Shelmun Dashan noted that with Food and Housing programs, it is easier to gather metrics on how many people were served through grant funds.

Butch Trusty agreed that limiting the focus area would make the scoring process easier and felt that having at least two areas per cycle would be ideal, so organizations would not have to wait three grant cycles before applying again. Additionally, clarifying the types of programs in each focus area would be beneficial.

Dale Morrissey cautioned against narrowing the criteria too much, as the source of the funding comes from all non-profits. Dale approved of the idea of having two focus areas and suggested having five finalists selected from each category.

Erica Spangler Raz commented that there seems to be a consensus among the committee about limiting the focus areas for grant cycles.

Joan Dixon voiced concern that organizations working in Workforce Development might be concentrated in more populous regions of the state.

Shelmun Dashan commented that it can be difficult to assess fiscal capacity and asked if the scoring rubric could be expanded to include more detail and guidelines.

Ariana Correa suggested that the rubric contain guidance for scoring applicants requesting funds for capital expenses.

Alex Armour committed to gathering additional feedback from the committee and to prepare a document for the committee to review prior to the next Charitable Trust Committee Meeting.

7) Presentation on Required Open Meetings Act Training, Ethics Training, and Harassment Prevention Training

Jennifer Olaya provided an overview of the trainings required for committee members.

8) Public Comment

No members of the public were present to provide public comments.

9) New Business

No new business.

10) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.