Request For Board Action

Attachment 6.1

Agenda Item: Stewardship Fund – 2020 Action Grants

Presenter: T. Schmitz

Meeting Date: 10 March 2020

Flexibility: □ Yes □ No

Estimated Time: □ Consent Agenda □ 10 Min. □ 15 Min. □ 30 Min. □ 45 Min. □ 1 Hour

Action Request: □ Information/Review □ Motion to approve □ Budget Change □ Other

Board Action: □ Approved □ Denied □ Tabled □ Accepted Report □ Other

Date of Action: 10 March 2020

Background (Attach Supporting Documents as needed)

As directed by Stewardship Fund guidance, staff is presenting the Action Grant applications that have been reviewed and recommended by staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

12 Action Grant pre-applications were accepted, 7 were asked to complete a full application. Of the applicants, staff and CAC recommend 4 Action Grants be awarded. If approved, total Action Grant funding for 2020 will not exceed $170,000.00.

1. **Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities, $50,000**
   a. Grantee: Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities (BBBS)
   b. Location: 3120 Washington Avenue N, Minneapolis (Hawthorne Neighborhood)
   c. Partners: Gensler, Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc., Greiner Construction, Carlson Family Foundation, Ecolab Foundation, 3M Foundation
   d. Summary: Entering its 100th year of providing services to youth in the Twin Cities, BBBS has purchased a site for its new headquarters in North Minneapolis. The new facility will support BBBS emerging role as a “mentoring hub” and is only 1,400 feet from the river, not far from the MWMO Stormwater Park & Learning Center. This grant will support construction of raingardens along Washington Avenue, collecting roof runoff and providing on-site open space and habitat for the Bigs and Littles to meet in and share in caring for.

2. **Elliot Park Skate Plaza - $50,000**
   a. Grantee: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB)
b. Location: 1000 E 14th Street, Minneapolis (Elliot Park Neighborhood)
c. Partners: City of Skate, Hennepin County Youth Sports Program
d. Summary: Aligning with MPRB’s Downtown Service Area Master Plan as well as its recent Skate Park Activity Plan, Elliot Park has been prioritized for improvements to its existing skate park. The site-specific design will allow it to support multiple uses, creating a skate plaza, which will incorporate raingardens for stormwater management. Interpretive components will be included in the skate-able surfaces to connect the skate “flow” with the flow of water on the site.

3. **Riverside Plaza Participatory Landscape Design + Installation - $50,000**
   a. Grantee: Metro Blooms
   b. Location: 1600 South 6th Street, Minneapolis (Cedar-Riverside Neighborhood)
   c. Partners: Sherman Associations, Riverside Plaza Tenant Association
   d. Summary: Riverside Plaza is an historical affordable housing community designed by the late architectural icon, Ralph Rapson, as part of the Housing of Urban Development’s pilot urban redevelopment program called “New Town, In Town” in the 1970’s. Over 5,000 individuals live, work, and seek service at Riverside Plaza. The community seeks to improve outdoor spaces through resident-centered design, installation, and care of green infrastructure practices. This grant will support reconstruction of a parking lot island to manage runoff and expand on the owners’ work to create a new parklet for their residents.

4. **Traffic Diverter Rain Garden Implementation - $20,000**
   a. Grantee: SE Como Improvement Association (SECIA)
   b. Location: 15th & Talmage Avenues SE, Minneapolis (Como Neighborhood)
   c. Partners: City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park + Recreation Board, University of Minnesota, Metro Blooms
   d. Summary: The SECIA neighborhood association is interested in improving five traffic diverters in their neighborhood. The diverters were installed in the 1970’s to reduce vehicle traffic on neighborhood streets, and were designed as berms with plantings. This pilot project will reconstruct one diverter to instead function as a raingarden, capturing stormwater from the street and improving habitat with native vegetation. The City of Minneapolis will provide a new catch basin and pipes to allow water to drain into raingarden.
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2020-011

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2020 ACTION GRANTS

WHEREAS, The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization works to protect and improve water quality, habitat and natural resources in an urban watershed that drains directly into the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO Board of Commissioners created the Stewardship Fund to engage the community in the protection of said resources; and

WHEREAS, Seven final applications were submitted which meet the MWMO Board guidance of the Stewardship Fund Action Grant; and

WHEREAS, Staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee have reviewed the applications; and

WHEREAS, Staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee recommend Action Grant funding to implement Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities, Elliot Park Skate Plaza, Riverside Plaza Participatory Landscape Design + Installation, and Traffic Diverter Rain Garden Implementation; and

WHEREAS, There is funding available in the Stewardship Fund for Mini, Planning and Action grants in FY 2020.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners awards the 2019 Action Grants to the following applicants – Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Metro Blooms, and the SE Como Improvement Association, committing $170,000 from the Stewardship Fund, and authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution.

Adopted this the 10th day of March, 2020.

Review for the Board:

Kevin Reich, Chair

Review for Administration:

Douglas Snyder, Executive Director