Rotary Club

2023

**Competitive Community Grant Program**

**Program Details and Lessons Learned**

**Chair:** Joy Lunsford

**Committee Members:** Nancy Lyle, Dave Ostrom, Steve Kadlec, Jackie Coan, Jan Levengood

**Background**:

The Rotary Club of Moscow conducted its first competitive grant in the spring of 2023. The Board authorized the expenditure of up to $20,000 from its Fundraising Account for this effort. 13 non-profit organizations competed for funding, each up to $5,000 allowed. Nine were awarded grants. Assuming the committee members are engaged and attend biweekly meetings, the total effort from initial planning to completion should not take over three months to complete. The project was completed with a Club meeting program featuring the attendance of all grant recipients and a minute presentation on their use of the grant money. The program lasted 35 min and was an ideal PR effort to show to the local community the generosity of our club’s community service.

**Components** all of which have been archived in the club’s administrative files:

* Applications
* Media publicity announcements and advertisements (newspaper, internet, social media)
* Competitive Results
* EZ Story
* Recipient group photo
* Rejection and Acceptance Letters

**Lessons Learned;**

Committee: Minimum required are five persons. The Community Service Committee should decide whether to take this on or have the board form an ad hoc committee. Members need to be as objective as possible.

Grant Scope/Eligibility Criteria was too large. IOW criteria allowed for too broad of consideration for selection. Narrower scope limiting to three or four eligible criteria such as youth, education, food in securing etc.

Other Service Clubs: Consideration might be given as to whether our club funds should help fund projects submitted by other local service clubs who enjoy resources from their own fundraising.

Selection Criteria:

* Make the selection process more defined and logical process to help remove biases from the team’s review.
  + No funds for operations and maintenance
  + Restrict eligibility to on Latah County
  + Grant funds are to be completed in a timely manner, no longer than one year from grant approval.
  + Consideration of successful completion of previously approved grants from same organization.
* Only projects that can be completed in one year should be considered.
* Must be a certified Nonprofit
* Funds requested should be enough to complete project.
* Project and NP must allow Rotary to recognize project in local media
* Grading matrix listing criteria for each member to grade would add an objective assessment leading to culling the obvious ineligible or poor application.

Follow Up: Approved projects need to be inspected for project completion IAW project scope

Public Relations: The Club needs to inform the community of the total amount of funds the club will be allocating for the grant cycle and the limit available to each applicant. The DNews was late in listing our advertisement but the Chamber Newsletter was very effective in generating interest along with word of mouth. Facebook and digital media was helpful.

Application Document: Filed application for the 2023 grant cycle appeared to be sufficient.