Strategic Partnership Grants Committee
February 5, 2026
1:00 – 2:30 pm
200 College St, Room 310

In attendance:
Committee Members:
Present: Ann Flynn, Cathy Ray (virtual), Dede Styles, Liz Ward (virtual), Mark Mickey, Ray Hemachandra

County Staff: Rachael Sawyer, Samantha Kirk, Angelyn Johnson (virtual)

Opening Remarks
Ray Hemachandra called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes
Ann Flynn made a motion to approve the minutes from December 4, 2025, and Mark Mickey seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business
- There was no old business.

New Business
- New members
  - The Board of Commissioners had scheduled interviews for the 3 applicants on 2/3 but due to the inclement weather, they were postponed. They were rescheduled to Tuesday, 2/17. Once appointed, staff will orient the new members.
- FY27 Funding Process
  - What we know so far:
    - Applications are due 2/20
    - 22 grant writing workshop registrants
    - 20 one-on-one grant consultations
    - 5 applications have been submitted and 14 are in draft.
      - Option 1
        - $10,000 – 2 applications
      - Option 2
        - $20,000 – 1 application
        - $25,000 – 1 application
        - $55,000 – 1 application
        - $72,500 – 1 application
        - $85,000 – 7 applications
    - The strategic focus areas for the applications so far include:
      - Community Health – 7 applications
      - Economic Development – 1 application
      - Energy/Environment – 2 applications
      - Public Safety – 1 application
  - Questions to consider:
    - How to balance funds between option 1 and option 2.
    - Whether to/how to ensure balance between focus areas/strategic objectives.

- Whether to/how to ensure balance by geography
- The impact of Helene priority

- The committee would like to maintain the flexibility to consider all of these topics while keeping the quality of projects and applications at the forefront.
- Staff will review the application list after the deadline on 2/20 to identify the number of applications received for each option and to explore the need to divide the applications among committee members based on the option selected.

Announcements:

- Applications are due by noon on Friday, 2/20.

Adjournment:

Ann Flynn made a motion to adjourn. Cathy Ray seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be March 5, 2026, 1:00 – 2:30 pm – 200 College St Room 310.