



MINUTES OF THE GRANTS AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JANUARY 20, 2016

Present: Corey Diamond (Chair)
Antoine Belaieff
Sandra Odendahl
Andre Vallillee
Jenn Miller

Staff: Ian Klesmer
Julia Langer
Mary Pickering
Bryan Purcell

Regrets: Councillor Sarah Doucette
Deb Doncaster
Ravi Seethapathy

1. Welcome, introductions, acknowledgments

The Committee welcomed Jenn Miller as its newest member

2. Review of Agenda. *Agenda approved.*

3. Declarations of Interest pursuant to the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. None*

4. The Committee received an update on the consolidated Grants and Programs Budget.

5. Internal Program Allocation Request (for input):

GHG Quantification Support - \$20,000 over one year (CEO approved)

The Committee suggested that staff consider opportunities to build further capacity in the area of GHG impact analysis.

6. Update on the Canadian Environmental Granmakers' Network's Low Carbon Future Funders Group

Andre Vallillee provided a brief update on a developing CEGN initiative to explore collaborative funding opportunities among the network's climate funders. This initiative emerged out of the results of the report, [En Route to a Low Carbon-Future: A Landscape Assessment for Canadian Granmakers.](#)

The Committee encouraged TAF to continue its active involvement in this initiative and monitor new co-funding opportunities to help leverage TAF's granting impact.

7. Overview and discussion of recent grants and strategic cultivation priorities for 2016

Ian Klesmer presented an overview of TAF's granting trends over the past four years, cultivation priorities for 2016, and reflections on TAF's recent grant management practices.

The following suggestions and comments were provided:

- *TAF should continue its active efforts to diversify its pool of grant recipients. This may require some smaller-sized or phased-in funding to build confidence levels in new grantees' capacity and performance, in advance of making the longer-term funding commitments that TAF is seeking.*
- *Staff should continue to evaluate the effectiveness of TAF's grant management practices, recognizing that evaluating policy change may require a different approach than other initiatives.*
- *If staff believe that a proposed project could benefit from the input of community experts, it is appropriate to require the establishment of a Project Advisory Committee as a grant condition.*
- *TAF should have guidelines for determining when it is suitable to provide grant funding to the City of Toronto, and what types of expenses are eligible. Staff committed to developing draft guidelines for the Committee to consider at its next meeting.*
- *Staff should continue to explore grant cultivation opportunities in the low-carbon transportation sphere. In doing so, TAF should be mindful of its niche and ensure that its funding complements the work that is already happening in this space.*
- *New opportunities are expected at the federal level which could advance the urban climate agenda. TAF should consider what role it can play in maximizing the local carbon benefits of these emerging opportunities.*
- *Committee members were asked to suggest partners from its network whose interests might overlap with TAF's cultivation priorities.*

8. Internal Program Updates:

- Grants and Programs Update Report
- Follow-up re TAF's role in assessing internal program allocations and external grant requests

The reports were received for information.

Next meeting: April 6, 2016, City Hall, Meeting Room C, 9:00am-12:00pm