

MONTPELIER COMMUNITY FUND BOARD

5/4/16 meeting minutes

Present: Board Chair Ron Wild and Board members John Van Deren, Christine Zachai, Judy Stermer, and Bernie Lambek. Bernie took the minutes. Location: City Manager Conference Room. Meeting began at 4:35 p.m.

1. CVHHH sent a letter dated April 6 addressed to Mayor Hollar and Ron Wild. However, Ron did not learn about the letter until about April 28 when Mayor Hollar inquired about it. The letter relates CVHHH's concerns about the MCF process.
2. Bernie had recused himself from the prior discussion relating to CVHHH's grant request. He believes, however, that he can participate in a discussion relating to the April 6 letter and the MCF's response because the issues here concern not the programs of CVHHH but general topics relating to our process and what avenues applicants have to request funds from the City. All others agree there is no cause for recusal.
3. Ron prepared and presented a draft response to CVHHH's letter, making certain key points: MCF minutes are publically posted on the City's website; MCF timely disclosed its grant recommendations in December and its rationales for not fully funding various applicants (including CVHHH); an applicant is not permitted to both request funds from MCF and also seek funds via the ballot process; and MCF appreciates the critical services provided by CVHHH.
4. Board approved the response letter with a couple of amendments, in particular to emphasize that the MCF Application Form itself states that an applicant to MCF agrees not to seek funding through the City's ballot petition process. Ron will send the response letter to Mayor Hollar for forwarding to CVHHH.
5. Board discussed several related issues that have continued to concern us and to elude easy solutions:
  - (a) How should MCF and the City deal with "outlier" requests for large grants?
  - (b) To what extent should we continue to honor the historical pattern of grant amounts?
  - (c) How should MCF and the City respond to requests for funding essential municipal services?
6. Board feels it would be helpful to discuss these issues more with the Council. We agreed to invite the Mayor and one or two Council members to a meeting for that purpose in the next month or two.