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GREENPOINT COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

Community Advisory Panel (CAP) Meeting Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Note: The following is a summary of the Greenpoint Community Advisory Panel (CAP) meeting held on 9/17/2014. The notes represent an ongoing dialogue with the CAP related to the development and implementation of the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund (GCEF).

Introduction, Purpose, and Meeting Goals: Amanda Bassow, National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF), described the primary goals of the meeting, which included discussion about: 1) community outreach and engagement; 2) the Large and Legacy Grant process; 3) Large and Legacy Grant community preferencing events; and 4) a future GCEF Small Grants Request for Proposals (RFP).

Notes, Updates, and Other Business:

- The CAP was unable to approve the meeting notes from 7/23/14 because the meeting was one CAP member shy of quorum. Filip Stabrowski, North Brooklyn Development Corporation (NBDC), suggested that the CAP meeting notes from 7/23/14 be circulated and approved by the CAP over email.

Community Outreach and Engagement Update:

- Listening tour outreach and community events. Filip Stabrowski discussed outreach meetings that have taken place with the leadership of local organizations and institutions, including District 14 Schools Superintendent and local public school principals, the Greenpoint YMCA, Town Square, and the Greenpoint Chamber of Commerce. He announced plans to continue to meet with the leadership of local groups, as well as to meet with the memberships of local organizations for the purpose of sharing: 1) GCEF accomplishments to-date; 2) current and ongoing GCEF activities; and 3) the GCEF process moving forward, including the upcoming round of Small Grant funding and the Large and Legacy Grant Community “Preferencing” Process.
- Presentation in Eastern Greenpoint. Filip Stabrowski announced a meeting with residents of Eastern Greenpoint scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2014 at the Lutheran Church of the Messiah on Russell Street. The purpose of the meeting is to continue to engage with the members of the Greenpoint community who reside in





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the area closest to the Exxonmobil oil spill by: 1) sharing the accomplishments of the GCEF to-date, particularly with respect to Eastern Greenpoint; 2) providing information on the upcoming Large and Legacy Grant Community Preferencing process, and encouraging them to participate; and 3) begin providing assistance in conceiving and developing project proposals for a future round of GCEF funding. Filip Stabrowski acknowledged the support and assistance of GCEF CAP members Mike Schade and Ingrid Bromberg-Kennedy in arranging the meeting.

Large and Legacy Grant Update:

- Amanda Bassow updated the CAP on the status of the Large and Legacy Grant review process. GCEF received 22 Large and 2 Legacy full grant proposals totaling \$25 million. An Independent Review Committee (IRC) consisting of approximately 30 reviewers with no affiliation with the GCEF is reviewing the proposals. After the IRC reviews, NFWF will examine the IRC scores to determine whether there is a clear threshold for a subset of proposals to move on to the community preferencing process. If not, NFWF will consult with the IRC to determine which projects should be recommended for community preferencing. NFWF will then recommend projects to advance to community preferencing to the State (by October 10), and the State will decide which projects will be advanced (by November 3).
- For the purposes of outreach for the community preferencing process, NFWF will produce: fact sheets on individual projects; posters (based on the fact sheets); a community preferencing flyer/postcard promoting the events; and a GCEF brochure. In an effort to limit campaigning, information dissemination for the preferencing events will be restricted to the two week period between November 3 and November 17. The community preferencing events will take place on Thursday, November 20 and Saturday, November 22. The number of projects for which preferences can be expressed will be based on the number of Large and Legacy Grants presented to the community for preferencing. It is anticipated that participants will be permitted to “vote” for a minimum of two projects and a maximum of half the total number of projects advanced to preferencing. The State will review the preferencing results beginning on November 25, and award the Large and Legacy Grants in December. The CAP may be consulted if the preferencing process does not provide clear results.
- There was discussion among the CAP about the content of the Large and Legacy Grant fact sheets and posters. One CAP member suggested that the term “matching funds” could be confusing to some members of the public. Amanda Bassow suggested that the term “applicant contribution to project” be substituted for or added to “matching funds” on the fact sheets and posters.
- There was also discussion among the CAP about whether the IRC scores should appear on the fact sheets and posters. Laura Truettner, consultant to State, expressed a concern that the scoring system (1-5) will produce a narrow band of



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scores (between 4 and 5, for projects that meet the threshold), which may not be helpful to members of the public. She suggested re-scaling the IRC scores to a 100-point system. Another CAP member suggested that the IRC scores should include an explanation for how the scores were determined (i.e. on what basis). Laura Truettner suggested that the IRC review criteria could be displayed on posters at the preferencing events.

Community Preferencing Update:

- Filip Stabrowski distributed the GCEF Large & Legacy Grant Community Preferencing Outreach Plan for review and feedback from the CAP. Due to time constraints, the CAP was asked to review the outreach plan on their own and provide feedback via email.
- Filip Stabrowski asked CAP members about possible venues for the community preferencing events. The Kickstarter space had been ruled out because it is not yet ready for public use. Concerns were raised about the Greenpoint Expo Center (because of the landlord's poor reputation in the community), the Lutheran Church of the Messiah (because of a lack of access for persons with disabilities), and St. Stanislaus Kostka auditorium (because of the host's involvement in a GCEF Large Grant proposal). The Polish National Home "Warsaw" and the Polish & Slavic Center Auditorium were suggested as possible venues in two geographically-distinct parts of Greenpoint.

Small Grants RFP:

- Amanda Bassow announced that the State has committed to at least one more round of Small Grant funding. She suggested that the GCEF may want to wait until after decisions are made regarding the current Large and Legacy Grant round of funding to formulate and release the next Small Grant RFP, because the amount of available funding will determine the possible composition of a future round of funding. She also asked the CAP how much GCEF money should be reserved for future round of funding (following the current round of Large and Legacy Grants). She reminded the CAP that approximately \$1 million in funding had been requested in the first round of Small Grants, of which \$395,000 in Small Grants had been awarded.
- There was discussion among the CAP about letting the results of the first round of grant funding determine the amount available for the second round. The possibility of raising the amount allocated for individual Small Grants (i.e. >\$25,000) for a second round of funding was also discussed.
- Emily Mijatovic, representative for Assemblymember Joseph Lentol, read a statement from Assemblymember Lentol indicating that many of his neighbors on Russell Street would like the opportunity for more GCEF funding for projects



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located in the “plume” areas of Greenpoint. Lentol would like to see another round of Small Grant funding and, if possible, a future round of “medium” grants.

- A CAP member proposed reserving \$1 million for a future round of GCEF grants (following the current round of Large and Legacy Grants). Amanda Bassow asked the CAP if this would be an acceptable amount. A few CAP members indicated support for the \$1 million figure; there were no objections. Amanda Bassow suggested that specific grant limits and categories could be determined at a later date, at a CAP meeting in January 2015 after the Large/Legacy grants had been awarded.

Closing Business – Future CAP Meetings: Filip Stabrowski proposed that the date for the next CAP meeting be decided over email.

Participants in 9/17/2014 CAP meeting:

Christine Holowacz	Newtown Creek Monitoring Committee (NCMC)
Heidi Shea Springer	Greenpoint Gardens
Ingrid Bromberg Kennedy	McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance
Manuel Zuniga	Java Street Community Garden
Joanna Micek	Greenpoint resident
Katie Denny	Open Space Alliance Community Committee
Ryan Kuonen	Brooklyn Community Board 1
Michael Heimbinder	Newtown Creek Alliance
Mike Schade	McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance
Zeeshan Ott	State Senator Daniel Squadron's Office
Emily Mijatovic	Assemblyman Joseph Lentol's Office
Tamara Slogoska	State Senator Martin Dilan's Office
Joe Haas	OAG
Peter Washburn*	OAG
Amanda Bassow	General Administrator (GA)/NFWF
Lynn Dwyer	GA/NFWF
Margaret Kostecki	GA/NBDC
Rich Mazur	GA/ NBDC
Filip Stabrowski	GA/NBDC
Laura Truettner	State Outreach Consultant, ESE

*denotes participants attended meeting by telephone conference