

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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## Approval of FY10 Neighborhood Matching Grant Proposals

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Meeting Date: April 12, 2010  
Department: City Manager's Office  
*www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods*

Agenda Item Number: 3C  
Staff Contact: Cindy Clarke  
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### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

The City Council is asked to approve the FY10 Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals recommended for funding by the Department Advisory Committee.

### **BACKGROUND**

On June 12, 2000, the City Council adopted Resolution 4632, approving and adopting standards and guidelines for operation of a Neighborhood Matching Grants program.

Between FY00 and FY03, 47 grant applications were approved by the council. After a three-year hiatus, funding was reinstated in FY07 for \$50,000 per year, funding an additional 30 projects. Since FY 2000, more than \$400,000 in matching grants has funded 77 community projects spread among 19 neighborhood associations.

For FY10, the Department Advisory Committee held two meetings in February and March in which public comment was received and applicants were provided an opportunity to respond to questions about their proposals. Nine proposals were reviewed and ranked by the committee. The 9 proposals identified in the attachment, totaling \$50,000 in grant requests, are recommended for funding in the current cycle.

### **RELATED CITY POLICIES**

Implementing a neighborhood matching grant program was a high-priority action item identified in the Neighborhood Empowerment Initiative. The program also promotes the Council Vision and Values, adopted in May 2009, with individual projects supporting a safe community, sustainable development, accessible and thriving culture and recreation, effective and accountable municipal government, and fair, stable and adequate financial resources.

In addition, staff conducted a back-end review of the recommended projects using a triple bottom line (TBL) framework. This framework provides another way of assessing alignment with the Council Vision. While proposals were not evaluated during initial ranking, this TBL exercise proved useful in bringing to light issues not previously considered related to the potential impacts on human rights and social equity, environmental health, and economic prosperity and fiscal stewardship of matching grant projects.

In general, it was easy to identify how the proposals would provide multiple benefits. Some proposals were clearly stronger than others, and nearly all could have improved their triple bottom line score with fairly simple adjustments that would not have jeopardized project viability. For example, the Camas Ridge Outdoor Learning Area and Butterfly Sanctuary provides clear benefits to youth (social equity), promotes outdoor activity and appreciation of nature (environmental health), and will be partially funded by volunteer resources and a partnership with another agency (economic prosperity). The TBL framework also highlighted opportunities for increased accessibility.

In addition, a number of proposals include physical improvements that could negatively impact economic prosperity through added costs to our community's infrastructure. This requires a balancing of the cost savings leveraged up front through the program's match requirement with longer-term maintenance costs associated with meeting community expectations that a facility will be maintained in perpetuity once it is built.

Staff will review existing grant criteria with the department advisory committee and consider how the review process can even more effectively promote a balance among human rights and social equity, environmental health, and economic prosperity and fiscal stewardship.

#### **COUNCIL OPTIONS**

The City Council may approve, amend, or deny the grants recommended for funding by the department advisory committee.

#### **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

The City Manager recommends the City Council approve all of the grants recommended for funding by the department advisory committee.

#### **SUGGESTED MOTION**

Move to direct the City Manager to fund the FY10 Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals as recommended by the department advisory committee.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

A. Neighborhood Matching Grants 2010 – Department Advisory Recommendations

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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