

**SUFC Steering Committee Call  
Monday, October 8, 2012**

Participating: Don Winsett, Steve Sinclair, Gerry Gray, Jen Hinrichs

**Long-term planning:**

- Jennifer is drafting some “strategic thinking” questions and rough SOW for Steering Committee planning needs. (She has reached out to several recommended/known consultants with expertise in coalitions to get a sense of availability, cost and best approach.) Our discussions are not for a full strategic planning session but rather strategic thinking around upcoming key decisions and changes within SUFC management. The challenge is to effectively frame and discuss some complex questions about SUFC’s growth and maintenance. Several issues should be addressed including:
  - The need to change SUFC’s federal fiscal sponsor/home base (from ISA to another SUFC member);
  - This shift raises financial questions due to the heavy in-kind support inherent in this role- as well as potential benefits housing the SUFC might garner;
  - Separate - but related, is a need to have a fundraising plan in general to support SUFC’s growth and staffing/operational capacity; and
  - The role of Vibrant Cities/Communities Initiative as a current project under SUFC’s wing: what does that look like in the short and long-term?

**Short-term planning:**

- A more immediate need is to provide funding for basic SUFC operations and support of Vibrant Cities (via Jennifer’s time) after December 31<sup>st</sup> 2012. Our current FS grant will be depleted by Dec. and it may be several months (March 2013+) until additional FS funds are available for an extended SUFC grant (no guarantee). Note: Vibrant Cities/Communities is funded through May/June 2013.
- An updated federal grant budget for SUFC is attached. Both SUFC and Vibrant Cities are combined (Note: SUFC grant funds were for an 18-month period and VC for 12 months). The FS is still in the process of approving the no-cost adjustment re: contractual expenses for SUFC.
- An updated summary of SUFC unrestricted funds are also attached (managed by ACTrees).

**Other:**

- SUFC will submit an operational grant for SUFC by December 2012 and outline another grant for Vibrant Cities by January 2013 to the U&CF program. This would provide a comprehensive picture of funding needed to sustain SUFC and continue SUFC’s work on the Vibrant Cities/Communities work. In addition, SUFC will flag and submit any

additional funding needs or opportunities that arise to the FS in the spring -- in the event that there are unspent funds remaining in the U&CF budget (funding/project request would be "in the back pocket" of U&CF staff for short-turn around funding opportunities).

- SUFC is hosting the National Academies of Science (NAS) Urban Ecosystem/Forestry Agenda Workshop on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. This provides an opportunity to raise SUFC's profile in the scientific community, show our collective support for UF research, and connect current and future SUFC members and supporters. The event is underwritten by SUFC, Davey Institute, ISA, SavATree, NAS.
- SUFC has an active subcommittee on urban research which is drafting an internal framework for SUFC member reference on urban forestry research. This will be circulated to the SUFC Policy WG and later the full Coalition for review and feedback.
- Vibrant Cities/Communities: Progress/update documents will be distributed prior to the Partners Conference to all stakeholders and there will be a presentation on the initiative during Day 1 of the plenary session. ALSO: Please plan to attend the SUFC briefing breakfast on Day 2 at the conference (7-8 AM) and we hope to see most of you at the SUFC Open Reception on the 13<sup>th</sup>.