

SUFC Steering Committee Call September 6, 2012

Participating: Gerry Gray, Don Winsett, Carrie Gallagher, Julia Anastasio, Steve Sinclair, Jen Hinrichs

SUFC Grant Budget Update:

- **Jennifer and Don presented the current Forest Service grant budget (grant spreadsheet only). The Committee discussed the following:**
 - SUFC FS grant for *all* core operations was projected to run through December 2012.
 - This operational grant was submitted prior to SUFC's intensive involvement with Vibrant Cities .
 - Funding under the contractual line item for convener has been exceeded – due to background work for Vibrant Cities, absorbing Vibrant Cities initiative, and a sustained high level of activity for SUFC operationally.
 - To cover convener hours through December, grant line items should be transferred contractual expenses through December 2012 - 5 months. Need SUFC Steering Committee to be informed; transparent activity.
 - In short: no new costs, everything is within the total net of the grant and moving some of the funds within the grant will require a no-cost modification by the FS, an administrative detail (according to Alice).
- **ACTION:** Steering Committee approved the internal movement of funds from various line items to cover contractual costs through December. *ISA and Jennifer will proceed with necessary administrative functions.*
- Committee expressed an interest in a full SUFC budget review every six months and a comprehensive budget that includes revenue, expenditures – combining restricted and unrestricted funding. “Good fiduciary duty.”
- SUFC will apply for a new SUFC operational grant in 2012 for 2013 (18 months). There was strong interest in keeping SUFC grant funds separated from Vibrant Cities going forward – even sep. grants if possible. Some discussion ensued about approaching the FS for any additional end-of-the-year remaining funds to help cover the operating funds deficit (due primarily to taking on VC).
- While supportive of Vibrant Cities (VC), Steering Committee members expressed importance and benefits that SUFC provides vs. Vibrant Cities alone – and that Vibrant Cities is much like a ‘program of SUFC’. While SUFC is the “perfect temporary home” for VC, the current grant scenario with co-mingled funds should be transitional and SUFC should look towards a long-term vision – avoiding a difficult future extradition with VC. As a current “program” of SUFC should have its own funding stream – and when that stream is gone, VC is no more.

- **Re: National Academies of Science reception** – Committee members approve sponsorship based on perceived value to SUFC. However, a *written criteria* should be developed by the Strategic Outreach Working Group to measure against tapping SUFC resources for future events. To date, \$1,500 has been raised by SUFC members and supporters, reducing the amount of SUFC unrestricted funds needed to sponsor the event. *Jennifer is continuing to raise dollars.*
- **Strategic Planning for SUFC:** Committee affirmed an external facilitator is important (funding to be identified). **ACTION:** *Jennifer will draft a SOW.* We should also revisit the operational and policy principals.
- By polling SUFC membership about direction and interests of SUFC members re: the Coalition, Committee members can have good information for their December DC meeting and make effort to engage all membership.
- **ACTION:** A SOW/outline for what SUFC needs in a fiscal agent was requested. *Jennifer*
- *A subcommittee* should begin to draft an action plan for SUFC which can be discussed and approved at our spring annual meeting.