Casino Funds – Decision-making Process
Revised Guidelines
Sept 1, 2010

With the receipt of the first installment of the Rivers Casino funding commitment to Northside neighborhoods, the NSLC Board established a process for decision-making as well as principles to guide the Board and Committees on how best to allocate those funds.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES:

- We do not want to simply spend all the funds as grants in 3 years and have nothing left. No less than 50% shall be allocated to low interest loans or recoverable grants that can be re-paid and recycled to help more projects in the future.
- Projects should leverage additional resources. Applicants must show what additional resources can be obtained by use of Casino funds.
- Casino funds must not replace other sources. Applicants must show that they have exhausted other funding sources before seeking Casino funds.
- Projects must be consistent with neighborhood plans.
- Funding requests may be submitted by non-member groups, but only with written support of the relevant member group.
- Because member groups vary in size, staffing and experience, member groups may partner for project management services with NSLC's Real Estate Program, other qualified consultants or experienced private developers. The Committee will consider the qualifications of the full project team.
- Committees will be established to review project proposals and to make recommendations to NSLC Board.
- Committees shall be chaired by an Officer of the NSLC Board selected by the NSLC Board.
- Committees must follow the criteria established by the NSLC Board.
- NSLC Board retains the final decision on all awards of Casino funds.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Principles:

- Dedicated to the 3 business districts closest to the Casino because those districts are most vulnerable to potential negative impacts from the casino, such as the proliferation of negative businesses that seek locations in proximity to casinos (eg, strip clubs, check cashers, payday lenders, pawns, nuisance bars). Those districts are East Ohio St, Western Ave and Federal St.
- The problem to be addressed is that these districts "suffer from significant vacant and/or underutilized buildings".
- The funds are to be used for "business and physical development" of these districts.
- The project must have strategic impact for the larger Northside, such as being a highly visible building or an important entry point, business or marketing effort that affects the Northside's image.

Business Development Funds Committee:

- The Committee shall be composed of 1 representative each appointed by the following member organizations:

    - Allegheny West Civic Council
    - Community Alliance of Spring Garden – East Deutschtown
    - Central Northside Neighborhood Council
    - East Allegheny Community Council
    - Fineview Citizens Council
    - Manchester Citizens Council
- Committee members need not be the same as organization representatives to the NSLC Board
- The Committee Chair shall be Walt Nalducci of Observatory Hill Inc, current NSLC Board President.
- The Committee will follow the guidelines as set forth above

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Principles:

- Available to any Northside neighborhood with an application by or support letter from the member group representing that neighborhood.
- The problem to be addressed is that Northside neighborhoods "suffer from significant vacant and/or underutilized buildings"
- The funds are to be used "for residential development of the Northside neighborhoods"
- The project must have strategic importance to the neighborhood in which it is located.
- Projects that have strategic importance for more than just a single neighborhood may be given additional consideration.

Housing Development Funds Committee:

- The Committee shall be composed of 1 representative appointed by each member community organization.
- Committee members need not be the same as organization representatives to the NSLC Board.
- The Committee Chair shall be Tony DiPardo of Fineview Citizens Council, current NSLC Board Vice President.
- The Committee will follow the guidelines as set forth above

APPLICATION PROCESS

Proposals:

- Proposals shall be submitted in writing to NSLC, addressed to the Executive Director.
- Proposals shall include:
    - General project overview
    - Strategic importance to the local neighborhood
    - Strategic importance to the larger Northside
    - Project Budget, including a full itemization of Sources and Uses
    - Request Letter or Support Letter from NSLC member group

Technical Assistance:

- Applicants may consult NSLC staff for assistance in preparing the Proposal
- Upon receipt of a Proposal, NSLC staff or the Committee may request additional information to enable a fair evaluation of the Proposal.

Committee Meetings:

- Upon receipt of a complete Proposal, the applicant will be scheduled to present the request to the next available Committee meeting
- Committees may act on Proposals by:
    - Approving the Proposal for funding
    - Rejecting the Proposal with guidance to the Applicant on the reasons for rejection
    - Holding the Proposal for additional information or other funding commitments.

Approved by NSLC Board 9/1/10
Revised and approved by NSLC Board 11/3/10