Scenarios Discussion

Competitive Equity Grant Pilot Program

May 2, 2019

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

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Today

- History
- Discuss program scenarios
  - Consider how each could increase equitable use
  - Focus on policy-level advice

Searching for tadpoles, Three Rivers Park District

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Program Goals

Create a grant program to increase equitable use of regional parks and trails.

- Different than other grant programs in parks
- Competitive
- Innovative
- Capacity building
- $300,000 Council capital bonds
- Award in 2019

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Competitive Equity Grant Pilot Program Timeline*

Program Development

January–June 2019

- Question Burst
- Prioritization Exercise
- Develop Fund Distribution Plan
- Adopt Fund Distribution Plan

Application Process

July–December 2019

- Implementing Agencies Apply
- Review Committee Assembled
- Applications Reviewed
- Grants Awarded

Project Implementation

Early 2020

- Funds Available
- Projects Implemented

Evaluation/ Refinement

Late 2020 and Beyond

- Program Evaluation
- Project Evaluation

*As of April 25, 2019

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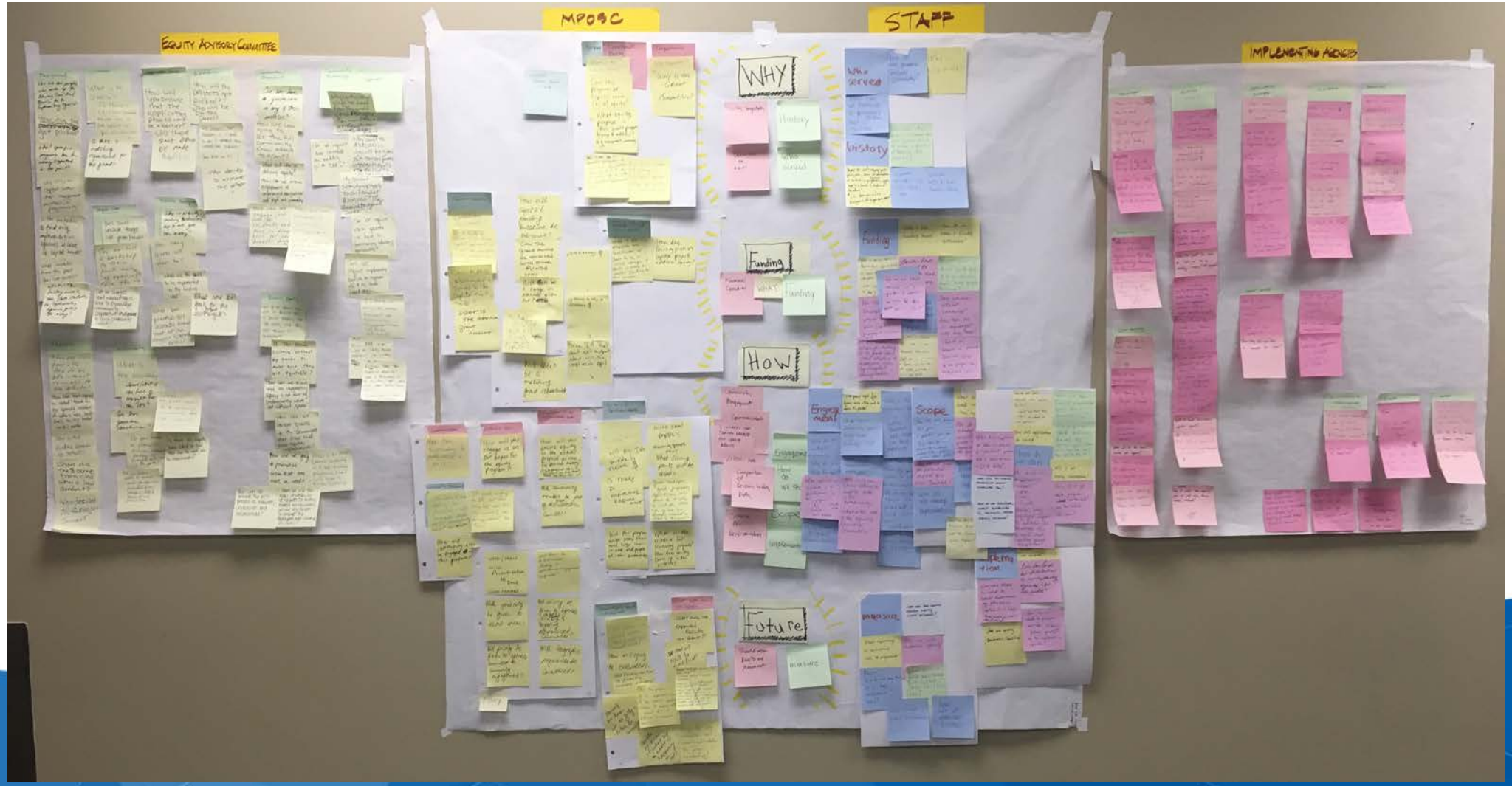
Step One: Question Burst - “Wall of Voices”



- January-February
- 4 groups
- 257 questions
- Four categories
- Eleven themes

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Sample Question Burst Responses

Equity Advisory Committee	Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission		Met Council staff	Implementing agencies staff
"Will agencies act in a new way?"	*"Will the program address awareness?"*	Why	*"Who will be served by this grant?"*	*"What definition of equity are we using?"*
"Why only $300,000?"	*"How does focusing on just capital projects address equity?"*	Funding	*"Is $300,000 enough to make a difference?"*	*"What are the max and min grant limits?"*
"Who will review proposals and is there a way to attract equity leaders to review (aka sniff out the…)?"	*"Can Council require community partnerships?"*	How	*"How do we get this program "in the field" by the end of the year"*	*"Can multiple agencies apply together?"*
"$300,000 is peanuts." "How can more money be added?"	*"How will equity be evaluated?"*	Future	*"How will we measure success?"*	*"Will this program grow in the future?"*

Themes from Step One - Question Burst

- Community engagement
- Community partnership
- Evaluation and accountability
- Geographic distribution
- Links to other park programs
- Matching funds
- Broad/specific equity focus
- Timeline
- Grant amount/grant number
- Capacity building
- Grant review process

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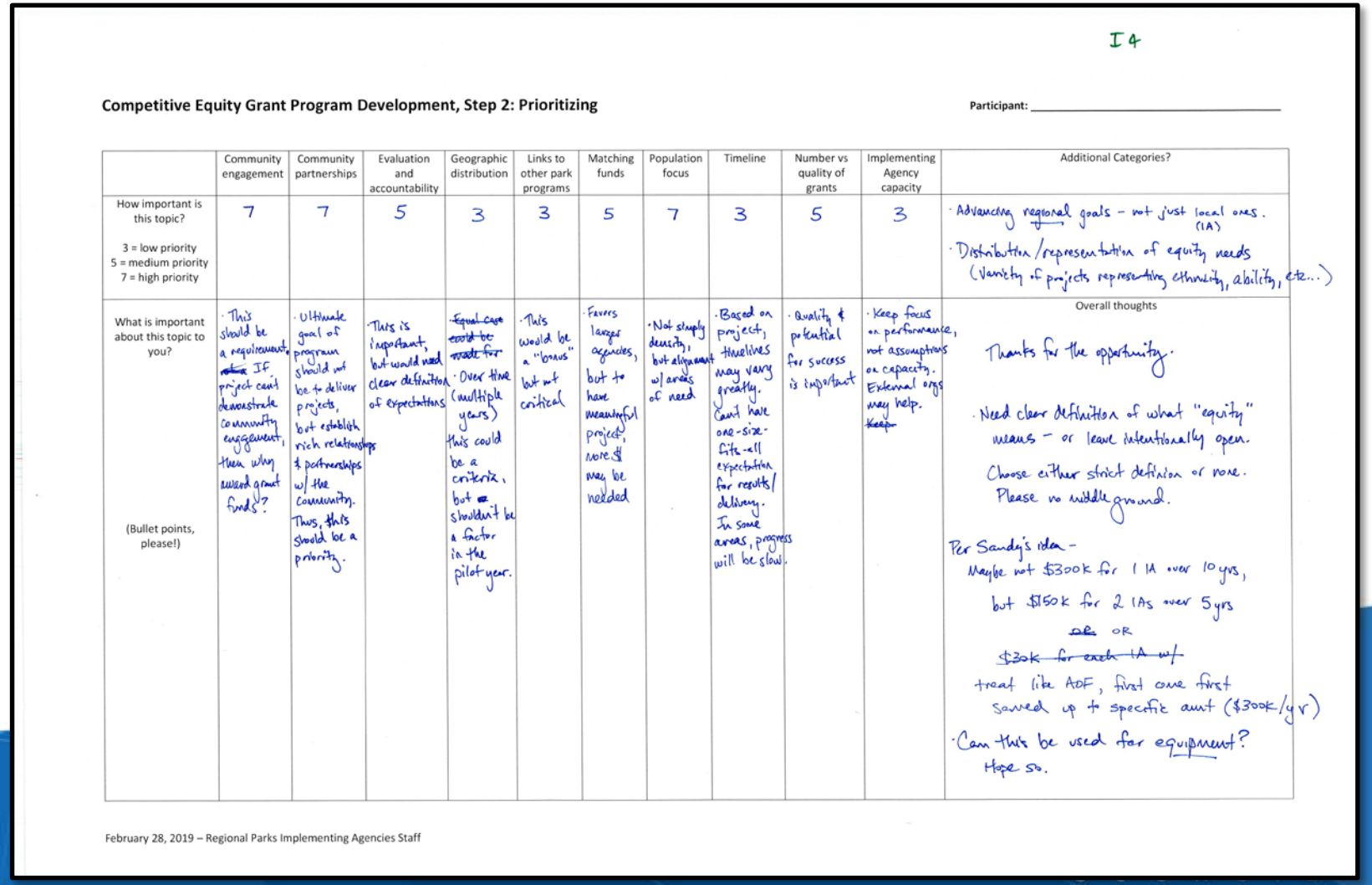
Step Two: "Priorities and Values" Exercise

- Themes from question burst
- Ranking reveals relative priorities
- Comments show underlying reasons and finer distinctions
- Leads toward scoring criteria, weighting and descriptive text



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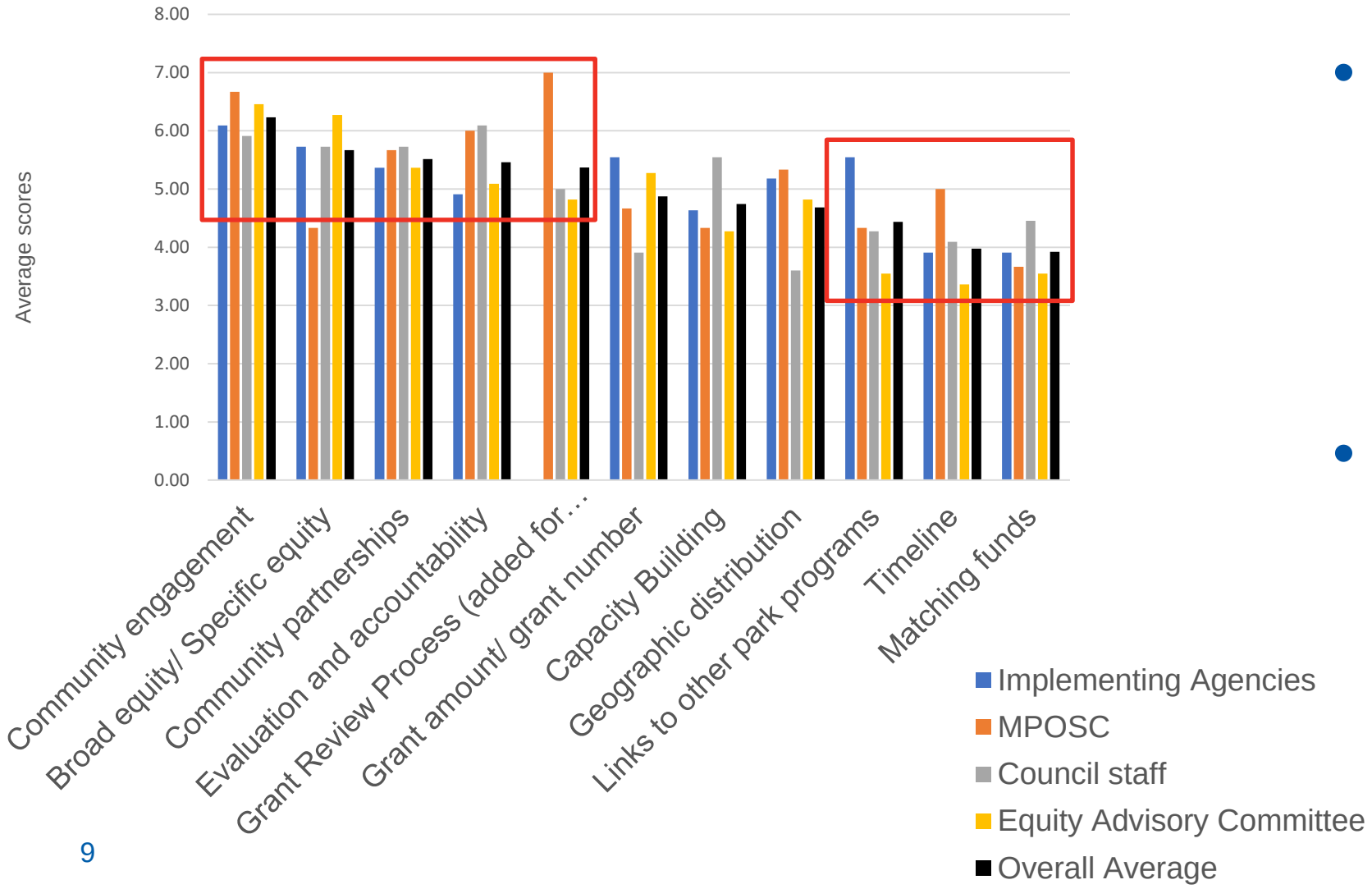
Competitive Equity Grant Program Development, Step 2: Prioritizing

Participant: _____

	Community engagement	Community partnerships	Evaluation and accountability	Geographic distribution	Links to other park programs	Matching funds	Population focus	Timeline	Number vs quality of grants	Implementing Agency capacity	Additional Categories?
How important is this topic? 3 = low priority 5 = medium priority 7 = high priority	7	7	5	3	3	5	7	3	5	3	· Advancing regional goals – not just local ones. (1A) · Distribution/representation of equity needs (Variety of projects representing ethnicity, ability, etc..)
What is important about this topic to you? (Bullet points, please!)	· This should be a requirement, ~~not~~. If project can't demonstrate community engagement, then why award grant funds?	· Ultimate goal of program should not be to deliver projects, but establish rich relationships & partnerships w/ the community. Thus, this should be a priority.	· This is important, but would need clear definition of expectations	~~Equal care could be made for~~ · Over time (multiple years) this could be a criteria, but ~~a~~ shouldn't be a factor in the pilot year.	· This would be a "bonus" but not critical	· Favors larger agencies, but to have meaningful project, more $ may be needed	· Not simply density, but alignment w/ areas of need	· Based on project, timelines may vary greatly. Can't have one-size-fits-all expectation for results/ delivery. In some areas, progress will be slow.	· Quality & potential for success is important	· Keep focus on performance, not assumptions on capacity. External orgs may help. ~~Keep~~	Overall thoughts Thanks for the opportunity. · Need clear definition of what "equity" means – or leave intentionally open. Choose either strict definition or none. Please no middle ground. Per Sandy's idea – Maybe not $300k for 1 IA over 10 yrs, but $150k for 2 IAs over 5 yrs ~~or~~ OR ~~$30k for each IA w/~~ treat like ADF, first come first served up to specific amt ($300k/yr) · Can this be used for equipment? Hope so.

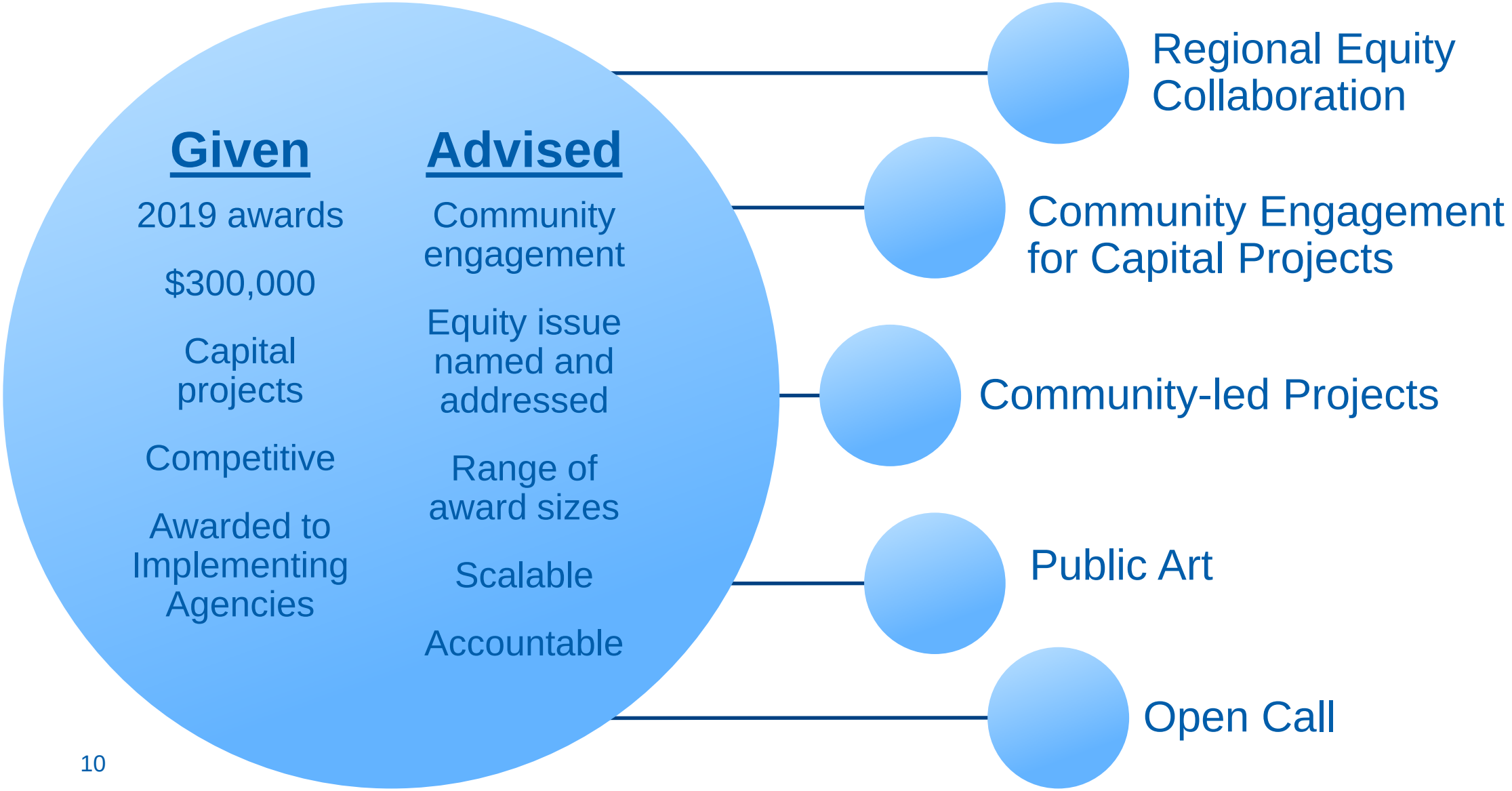
February 28, 2019 – Regional Parks Implementing Agencies Staff

Step Two: Priorities and Values Findings



- Highest
  - Community engagement
  - Broad/specific equity focus
  - Community partnership
  - Evaluation and accountability
  - Grant review process
- Lowest
  - Links to other programs
  - Matching funds
  - Timeline

Step Three: Scenarios for possible structure



Your input needed

In these scenarios:

- How do they reflect your policy values?
- How would they increase equitable use of Regional Parks and Trails?
- What strengths and challenges do they have?
- How are the themes addressed?

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Regional Equity Topic

- A single equity topic is selected by an inclusive committee each year.
- All ten agencies work together with advisors to explore that topic.
- Each agency can apply for capital funding to address the topic.

Universal access playground at Wabun Picnic Area

Themes Emphasized

Community engagement

Community partnership

Evaluation and accountability

Geographic distribution

Links to other park programs

Matching funds

Broad/specific equity focus

Timeline

Grant amount/grant number

Capacity building

Grant review process

Community Engagement for Capital Projects

- Agencies apply for in-depth engagement to shape capital projects already in line for funding through other programs.
- Program funds support refinement of capital projects to increase equitable use.

JXTA youth bring creative visions to complex design problem and look to make a section of the riverfront accessible to the Northside community

Themes Emphasized

Community engagement

Community partnership

Evaluation and accountability

Geographic distribution

Links to other park programs

Matching funds

Broad/specific equity focus

Timeline

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Grant review process

Public Art

- Arts and culture used as a vehicle to welcome under-represented communities to regional parks and trails.
- Artists can translate and transcend difficult equity conversations to bring new ideas and perspectives.

Angela Two Stars' Dakota language stamp in Bde Maka Ska sidewalk

Themes Emphasized

Community engagement

Community partnership

Evaluation and accountability

Geographic distribution

Links to other park programs

Matching funds

Broad/specific equity focus

Timeline

Grant amount/grant number

Capacity building

Grant review process

Community-led Projects

- Agencies partner with a community-led effort in a regional parks or trail to produce a capital project.
- Community organizations lead discussions, shape processes, and share in decision making.

Signage in Indian Mounds Regional Park is being updated to reflect cultural plan

Themes Emphasized

Community engagement

Community partnership

Evaluation and accountability

Geographic distribution

Links to other park programs

Matching funds

Broad/specific equity focus

Timeline

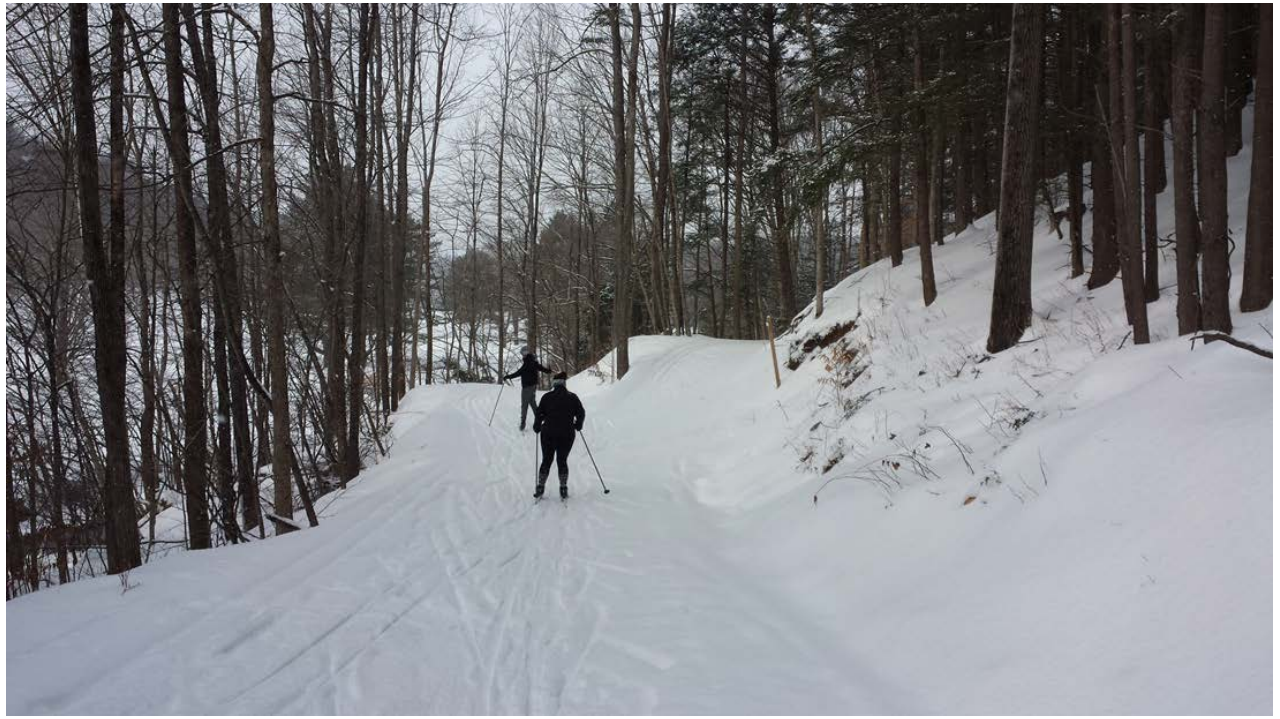
Grant amount/grant number

Capacity building

Grant review process

Open Call

- Implementing Agencies propose equity-focused projects.
- Highest competitively-scored projects are awarded funding.
- Program structure decided as part of grant reviews.



Increasing opportunities for winter recreation activities across all communities.

Themes Emphasized

Community engagement

Community partnership

Evaluation and accountability

Geographic distribution

Links to other park programs

Matching funds

Broad/specific equity focus

Timeline

Grant amount/grant number

Capacity building

Grant review process

Additional comments

In these scenarios:

- How do they reflect your policy values?
- How would they increase equitable use of Regional Parks and Trails?
- What strengths and challenges do they have?
- How are the themes addressed?

Step Four: Fund Distribution Plan

- What we're working toward now
- An official step, adopted by Council
- Vetting of program ideas with rules on grant administration, council policies, fiscal requirements
- Council adoption by end of June

Fund Distribution Plan will include:

- Program vision and goals
- Available funds
- Grant minimum, maximum
- Eligible projects
- Review committee
- Scoring criteria

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Next Steps

May 2	Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission	Scenarios discussion (information item)
May 6	Community Development Committee	Scenarios discussion (information item)
May 20	Community Development Committee (possible)	Follow-up discussion (information item)
May 21	Equity Advisory Committee (possible)	Update/discussion (information item)
May 25	Implementing Agencies (possible)	Update/discussion
June 6	Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission	Recommend Fund Distribution Plan (business item)
June 17	Community Development Committee	Recommend Fund Distribution Plan (business item)
June 26	Metropolitan Council	Adopt Fund Distribution Plan (business item)

*As of May 2, 2019

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