

## WCVB Board Meeting

**Meeting:** February 11, 2021

**Item:** 2021 WCVB Community Grant Program Revisions (Sports and Tourism)

### Overview:

#### Application Dates

Current: The 2021 WCVB Community Grant Program has open application dates of January 29, 2021 and June 26, 2021.

Proposed: *Opening the application dates to March 27, 2021 (Award April WCVB Meeting); May 28, 2021 (Award June WCVB Meeting) and July 31, 2021 (Award August WCVB Meeting)* to allow event organizers flexibility. The June date would no longer be open. With so much uncertainty due to COVID, I feel this revision will benefit the organizers and the WCVB. Of course, all the dates from January on are pending fund availability. This change would be temporary and in future I would ask we go back to two application reviews to keep the program manageable.

#### Eligibility Category

Current: Eligible applicants must have the status of a 501c3 nonprofit.

Proposed: *Opening the eligibility to organizations with 501c3 and 501c6 nonprofit status.*

The WCVB was contacted by a local 501c6 with interest in applying for the grant for an event that would result in overnight lodging in Warrensburg. As the criteria stands, the organization is not eligible.

Legal counsel was contacted regarding legal restrictions with the lodging tax. They were not aware of any legal restriction that would stop the WCVB from opening the grant eligibility to 501c6 organizations. It was noted any grant funds distributed by the WCVB must be tourism related.

The City Finance Director contacted the auditors on behalf of the WCVB to confirm if IRS Codes would allow the WCVB to offer the grant to 501c6s. As per the auditors, the WCVB can open the eligibility to 501c6s. They did state the WCVB is required to keep the status to nonprofits (501c3 and 501c6) and the allocation must be tourism related.

The City and WCVB Contract for Services FY 2020-2021 does not specify grant eligibility. The revision only needs WCVB Board approval.

- o. **The Bureau shall award grants to eligible entities and develop an application process;**

#### Communication of Revisions

If the above revisions are approved, they would be communicated on the WCVB social media platforms, a press release and in communication to past recipients, event venues, etc. They would also be included in bi-monthly report to City Council.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the board approve the below revisions to the 2021 WCVB Grant Program.

\*Application review dates revised to March 27, 2021; May 28, 2021; and July 31, 2021.

\*Open eligibility to 501c3 and 501c6 organizations.