

**From:** [Justin Marchbanks](#)  
**To:** [Mayor](#)  
**Cc:** [Liesl Barker](#); [Kathy Leary](#)  
**Subject:** Endowment Grant conversation  
**Date:** Saturday, December 14, 2024 19:49:04

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Honorable Mayor McLaughlin:

I would encourage the full council to thoughtfully study and debate the recommended award for The Conservation Lands Advisory Committee submission, as well as others. This application should be reviewed with particular attention to eligibility requirements. It's possible that an award to an outside organization (SEALT) or individual(s) would be in violation of Ordinance 4.13.110(c).

While this project should benefit the community, granting funds to a Juneau organization, or to a local non-entity, or (private citizens), who, with respect to their last name, do not live here, could be viewed as not within the intention of Ordinance. Oxford defines "local" as:

*adjective*

adjective: **local**

1. belonging or relating to a particular area or neighborhood, typically exclusively so.

Mr. DeBoer states in his letter that while supportive of the grant, he is not selling. His father held the same sentiment. We thank them for that. SEALT has been in discussions with the family since 2018. The sense of urgency to award this grant is misplaced. Please consider sending it back to the endowment fund working group for further review.

From Municode link on COG website:

<b>Section 4.13.110 - Grant awards.</b>	
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(c)

<i>Eligible recipients:</i> Grants may be awarded to city departments, non-governmental organizations within the City of Gustavus, or other local entities whose proposals the city council deems worthy based on criteria outlined in in the Endowment Fund Grant Policy and Procedure. At least one applicant for each project must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and a Gustavus resident. All applicants must be current on city taxes (if applicable).
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Additionally, as it is germane to this matter, I would ask that the Ordinance pertaining to advisory committees be reviewed with emphasis on discussion around the allowance of council members as voting members of the AC. When AC's were first adopted here, there was a council liaison committed to the AC for guidance with OMA procedure, Robert's Rules, etc. but they did not vote. At some point ordinance was adapted to what we have now. In my view, an AC top heavy with council is not the intent. Imagine ASB members voting at the RSB table as an example. Council members should get to vote at the council table, once, with an independent AC's recommendations.

Or maybe it's just me.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Marchbanks