

DATE OF MEETING February 19, 2020

AUTHORED BY LAARA CLARKSON, MANAGER, RECREATION SERVICES

**SUBJECT COMMUNITY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT – NANAIMO
SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY SOCIETY (NS3)**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council approval of a request for a Community Program Development Grant. |

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the request from the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) for a Community Program Development Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to assist in funding a Science in the Park summer program for children and families.

BACKGROUND

The intent of the Community Program Development Grant is to assist community groups to develop new or expanded programs that provide increased opportunities for residents to participate and connect with community, and to enhance residents' exposure to a variety of experiences.

The grant is intended as seed funding to help get new programs off the ground or to expand existing programs with the hope that the programs become self-sustaining. It is not intended to be long-term operational funding or funding for capital expenditures. A total budget of \$15,000 is available through this fund with applications accepted by deadlines of November 1 for spring/summer programs and May 1 for fall/winter programs, or as funds remain available. |

DISCUSSION

A total of four Community Program Development Grant applications were received prior to the acceptance deadline of 2019-NOV-01 for the intake period for 2020 spring/summer programs. Staff reviewed all applications based on program eligibility and assessment criteria (see Attachment A).

Staff determined that the application submitted by Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) requesting \$3,000 to assist in funding its "Science in the Park" summer program successfully met all the grant criteria. This program delivers hands-on activities related to environmental education at various parks in Nanaimo for seven weeks in July and August 2020. Three other applications reviewed by Staff were determined to not meet the grant criteria and, therefore, were deemed ineligible to receive funding.

2020 Community Program Development Grant – Applications Received

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	REQUEST	RECOMMENDED
Alano Club of Nanaimo Society	Nanaimo Alano Club	\$25,000	Not eligible
Nanaimo African Heritage Society	Black History Month	\$8,000	Not eligible
Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3)	Science in the Park Summer Program	\$3,000	\$3,000
Transition Nanaimo Society	Public Engagement - Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP)	\$1,000	Not eligible
Total Requested		\$37,000	\$3,000 awarded
Total Available		\$15,000	\$12,000 remaining in grant fund

Staff are recommending that the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the Community Program Development Grant application from Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) for the requested amount of \$3,000. If this grant is awarded, a balance of \$12,000 will remain in the grant fund to be available for future applications in 2020.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the request from the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) for a Community Program Development Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to assist in funding a Science in the Park summer program for children and families.
 - The advantages of this option: Meets the goal of helping community groups seed new programs to increase opportunities for residents to participate and connect in the community.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None identified.
 - Financial Implications: A balance of \$12,000 would remain for future Community Program Development Grant application funding.

2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council deny the Community Program Development Grant application.
 - The advantages of this option: The requested grant funds of \$3,000 would remain available for a future grant application.
 - The disadvantages of this option: An application from a community group that fulfills all grant criteria would not be approved.
 - Financial Implications: The entire balance of \$15,000 would remain for future Community Program Development Grant application funding.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Funding of \$15,000 is allocated yearly for Community Program Development Grants.
- The application from Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) requesting \$3,000 to assist funding for a Science in the Park summer program for children and families successfully meets the grant criteria.
- A balance of \$12,000 would remain in the 2020 Community Program Development Grant fund if the application is approved.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Community Program Development Grant Application Guidelines |

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Concurrence by:

Laura Mercer
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Richard Harding
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