

DATE OF MEETING JULY 21, 2021

AUTHORED BY LAARA CLARKSON, MANAGER, RECREATION SERVICES,  
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

SUBJECT **COMMUNITY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT – NANAIMO  
CLIMATE ACTION HUB SOCIETY**

## **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 Climate Action Hub Society for a Community Program Development Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to assist in funding the Community Climate Circles program.

## **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 November 1 for Spring/Summer programs and May 1 for fall/winter programs, or as funds remain available. |

## **DISCUSSION**

A total of one Community Program Development Grant applications were received prior to the acceptance deadline of 2021-MAY-01 for the intake period of 2021 fall/winter programs. Staff review all applications based on program eligibility and assessment criteria.

Staff reviewed the application submitted by the Nanaimo Climate Action Hub Society with a request of \$3,000 to assist in funding the Community Climate Circles program to be held primarily in the City of Nanaimo and also in the Regional District of Nanaimo, Ladysmith and Port Alberni (Attachment A).

The Nanaimo Climate Action Hub Society is a newly formed organization with a purpose to advance solutions that reflect the urgency of the climate emergency through advocacy, local

initiative and collaboration with other organizations. The grant application is for a proposed new program outlined in Attachment A, called Community Climate Circles. This is a pilot project in which neighbouring families support each other as they work to reduce their household climate pollution. The Climate Circles will provide an educational opportunity for families to learn about various grants and incentives that are available such as, but not limited to, how to increase home energy efficiency, install a heat pump or purchase an electric vehicle. The circles are planned to take place in City of Nanaimo (75%), as well as RDN (15%), Port Alberni and Ladysmith (10%).

Staff determined that this application successfully met all of the grant criteria (Attachment B) and are recommending that Council approve the request for grant funding. |

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Each year, a total of \$15,000 is allotted for the Community Program Development Grant fund and a total of \$3,500 has been allocated so far in 2021.

The Nanaimo Climate Action Hub Society is requesting \$3,000 in grant funding from the City of Nanaimo to support their program, Community Climate Circles, with a total estimated project budget of \$16,000. |

### **OPTIONS**

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the request from the Nanaimo Climate Action Hub Society for a Community Program Development Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to assist in funding the Community Climate Circles program.
  - The advantages of this option: Meets the goal of helping community groups with an expanded program to increase opportunities for residents to participate and connect in the community.
  - The disadvantages of this option: None identified.
  - Financial Implications: If approved, the remaining balance of \$8,500 would remain available for future 2021 requests for Community Program Development Grant funding.
  
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council deny the Community Program Development Grant received from the Nanaimo Climate Action Hub Society.
  - The advantages of this option: The grant funds would remain available for future grant applications.
  - The disadvantages of this option: The application from a community group that meets all criteria would not be approved.
  - Financial Implications: If denied, the remaining balance of \$11,500 would remain available for future 2021 requests for Community Program Development Grant funding. |

**SUMMARY POINTS**

- Funding of \$15,000 is allocated yearly for Community Program Development Grants.
- The application from the Nanaimo Climate Action Hub Society to assist funding the Community Climate Circles program successfully meets the grant criteria.
- If approved, a balance of \$8,500 would remain in the 2021 Community Program Development Grant fund.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT A: Application for the Community Program Development Grant from Nanaimo Climate Action Hub Society.

ATTACHMENT B: Evaluation Form for the Community Program Development Grant. |

**Submitted by:**

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**Concurrence by:**

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**And by:**

Richard Harding  
General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture

**And by:**

Laura Mercer  
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