

DATE OF MEETING OCTOBER 20, 2021

AUTHORED BY LAARA CLARKSON, MANAGER, RECREATION SERVICES

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

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council approval 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 \$1,000 to assist in funding The Great Pumpkin Toss event 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 and events 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. Thus far in 2021, \$11,000 has already been allocated. |

DISCUSSION

A total of one Community Program Development Grant applications was received prior to the acceptance deadline of 2021-MAY-01 for the intake period for 2021 fall/winter programs. In addition, one other late application was received and approved since that date.

Staff reviewed the application based on program eligibility and assessment criteria (see Attachment A) and determined that the application submitted by Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) successfully met all the grant criteria (Attachment B). This is the same event that NS3 successfully applied for in 2020, but did not run the event due to COVID-19 Pandemic. |

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

2021 Community Program Development Grant – Applications Received

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	REQUEST	RECOMMENDED
Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3)	The Great Pumpkin Toss event	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Available		\$4,000	\$3,000 remaining in grant fund

OPTIONS

- 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 \$1,000 to assist in funding The Great Pumpkin Toss event 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 \$3,000 would remain for future Community Program Development Grant application funding.
- That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council deny the Community Program Development Grant applications.
 - The advantages of this option: The requested grant funds of \$1,000 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 balance of \$4,000 would remain for future Community Program Development Grant application funding for the remainder of 2021

SUMMARY POINTS

- Funding of \$15,000 is allocated yearly for Community Program Development Grants.
- The application from Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) to assist funding for a new family event called the Great Pumpkin Toss successfully meets the grant criteria.
- A balance of \$3,000 would remain in the 2021 Community Program Development Grant fund if the application is approved.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Community Program Development Grant Application

ATTACHMENT B: Evaluation form for the Community Program Development Grant |

Submitted by:

Laara Clarkson
Manager, Recreation Services |

Concurrence by:

Laura Mercer
Director of Finance

Richard Harding
General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture