

DATE OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

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SUBJECT CONSIDERATION OF OTHER GRANTS

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To bring forward 'Other Grant' applications received from the Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association and the Nanaimo Foodshare Society to the Finance and Audit Committee for consideration.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:

1. Deny an "Other Grant" in the amount of \$5,000 to support the hosting of the 15U AA Provincials baseball tournament held in Nanaimo.
2. Deny an in-kind facility rental "Other Grant" with an estimated value of \$6,650 to the Nanaimo Foodshare Society.

BACKGROUND

The City of Nanaimo maintains an annual program to award civic grant funding to eligible non-profit organizations operating in the City of Nanaimo. The intent of the 'Other Grant' is to offer another avenue to community organizations that do not fit into any categories of any of the specific programs.

The criteria for awarding an 'Other Grant' includes:

- Large number of volunteers
- Registered non-profit society
- Sound financial and administrative management
- Demonstrated financial need
- Accessible to a large portion of the community
- Broad base of support
- Other source(s) of financial support
- Must be local in focus and comply with the City of Nanaimo bylaws and policies

In addition, the kind of funding for 'Other Grants' is outlined in the policy (Attachment A) as follows:

- Educational funding
- Emergency funding
- Capital grants on a matching basis up to a maximum of \$5,000
- In-kind funding for facility rental

Two applications have been received for consideration at the 2023-SEP-13 Finance & Audit Committee meeting:

- Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association
- Nanaimo Foodshare Society |

DISCUSSION

Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association (NMBA)

The NMBA is primarily a volunteer-run organization that serves an estimated 650-700 players with approximately 18 volunteer spots on the Board of Directors and 130 community volunteers. The association's mission is to help young players in the community have fun and develop baseball skills while providing them with a platform of success.

The Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association (NMBA) hosted the 15U AA Baseball Provincials in Nanaimo from 2023-JUL-27 to 2023-JUL-31. The tournament requires a large number of volunteers, many hours of organization and planning, and can create significant economic benefits to the community.

Last year, in 2022, The City of Nanaimo awarded a \$5,000 grant to the NMBA to host the 13U AAA Provincials tournament under the 'Emergency Funding' category of the other grants program. At that time, there were funds available in the Other Grants budget, and it was noted that Tourism Nanaimo and the Nanaimo Hospitality Association do not offer event funding for events happening in July and August, which is still the case.

For 2023, the grant application has requested a \$5,000 grant for event funding for the 15U AA Provincials which is broken down as follows:

- Umpires (\$3,000)
- Programs/Medals (\$1,000)
- Scorekeepers/workers (\$1,000)

Annual hosting of events would not qualify under the 'Emergency Funding' category of the 'Other Grants' program. In addition, the 'Other Grants' program is not intended to provide ongoing annual funding for events.

Nanaimo Foodshare Society

The Nanaimo Foodshare Society was established in 1997 and registered as a charity in 2000. The Society connects the community with resources, skills and knowledge to create change that increases healthy food for everyone by:

- Working with community partners to address hunger in the community
- Building food skills
- Building community capacity to provide healthy foods to everyone
- Supporting local sustainable food production, help building food policy, and developing coordinated community strategies to improve food security

The Nanaimo Foodshare Society is primarily run by volunteers; the society is managed by 4 full-time staff, 20 part-time staff and 60 community members volunteering approximately 7,000 hours per year. The programs offered by the society provide affordable food access and food education to the Nanaimo community. These programs include:

- The Good Food Box
- Monday Lunch Together
- TAP (cooking classes for seniors)
- Farmer's Market Nutritional Coupon Program
- Kids Get Cooking
- Grow Food/Get Cooking Summer Camps

The Good Food Box is a bag of fresh fruit and vegetables available at a low cost. The box includes about 7-9 different kinds of fruit and vegetables. Everyone can purchase a Good Food Box and the more people who purchase, the better the prices the Society can get on fruits and vegetables purchased directly from farms and wholesalers.

The Good Food Box program is well established, and every Thursday, a team of approximately 20 volunteers come out and help unpack and sort thousands of pounds of produce into hundreds of individual bags for distribution.

The Nanaimo Foodshare Society is asking for an in-kind grant of \$6,628.98 to offset the increased cost of renting the Beban Centennial building (2300 Bowen Rd) every Thursday for the distribution of the Good Food Box, as rental rates for the facility have increased.

In-Kind Facility Rentals are an eligible funding category under the 'Other Grants' program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2023 budget of \$7,000 for 'Other Grants' has already been fully expended for the year.

Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association – the staff recommendation is to deny the grant request because annual hosting of events would not qualify under the 'Emergency Funding' category of the 'Other Grants' program, and the 'Other Grants' program is not intended to provide ongoing annual funding for events.

Nanaimo Foodshare Society – The staff recommendation is to deny the grant request as the 'Other Grants' budget has been fully expended for the year.

However, if Council wished to award either grant, the funding could come from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund. The estimated ending balance in this reserve fund at the end of 2023 is \$1,794,000. |

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:

1. Deny an 'Other Grant' in the amount of \$5,000 to support the hosting of the 15U AA Provincials Tournament held in Nanaimo.
2. Deny an in-kind facility rental "Other Grant" with an estimated value of \$6,650 to the Nanaimo Foodshare Society.

Advantages:

- The 'Other Grants' budget for 2023 would not be over-expended and additional funding would not need to be utilized from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve.
- The decision would be congruent with the criteria in the 'Other Grants' policy, as ongoing annual funding for sport hosting events does not qualify under the Other Grants program.

Disadvantages:

- Financial support would not be provided to the Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association in support of the Provincials tournament, which could determine whether Nanaimo is chosen as a future location for Provincial tournaments.
- Financial support would not be provided to the Nanaimo Foodshare Society and the Society may need to increase the cost of every Good Food Box, decrease the amount of fresh produce provided each week or find a different location to rent.

Financial Implications:

- There would be no financial implications to the City.

2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:

1. Deny an 'Other Grant' in the amount of \$5,000 to support the hosting of the 15U AA Provincials Tournament held in Nanaimo.
2. Award an in-kind facility rental "Other Grant" with an estimated value of \$6,650 to the Nanaimo Foodshare Society, funded from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund.

Advantages:

- The decision would be congruent with the criteria in the 'Other Grants' policy, as ongoing annual funding for sport hosting events does not qualify under the Other Grants program.
- The Nanaimo Foodshare Society will be able to continue to rent the space at the Beban Centennial building to offer it as a pickup location for the Good Food Box program.
- The Good Food Box program supports the long-term vision for Nanaimo as outlined in the City Plan - to be a community that is livable and environmentally sustainable.

Disadvantages:

- Financial support would not be provided to the Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association in support of the Provincials tournament, which could determine whether Nanaimo is chosen as a future location for Provincial tournaments.
- The revenue that the City of Nanaimo would normally charge for the rental of the Beban Centennial building would not be collected and would need to be funded from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund as there is no budget remaining in the "Other Grants" program budget for 2023.

Financial Implications:

- As the "Other Grants" budget for 2023 has been fully expended, Council would need to fund the award from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund. The estimated 2023 ending balance in the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund is \$1,794,000.

3. That the Finance and Audit Committee provide alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Two 'Other Grant' Applications have been received for consideration by Council
- One application is from the Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association for tournament funding for the 15UU Baseball Provincials event that was held in Nanaimo
- The other application is from the Nanaimo Foodshare Society seeking \$6,628.98 of in-kind facility rental support for the use of the Beban Centennial building every Thursday for the Good Food Box program
- The 'Other Grants' program funding has been fully utilized for 2023 so any grants awarded would need to be funded from Council's Strategic Infrastructure Reserve

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Grants Policy and Guidelines
ATTACHMENT B: Application from the Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association
ATTACHMENT C: Application from the Nanaimo Foodshare Society |

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