

DATE OF MEETING December 13, 2023

AUTHORED BY CHRIS SHOLBERG, COMMUNITY/HERITAGE PLANNER

SUBJECT NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION GRANTS 2024

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present to the Finance and Audit Committee the recommended Neighbourhood Association Grant allocations for 2024.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve a total of \$10,000, in accordance with the 2024 Neighbourhood Association Grant Guidelines and Criteria as attached, and that the grant allocations be as follows:

Brechin Hill Community Association - \$800

Chase River Community Association - \$920

Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association - \$920

Dover Community Association - \$920

Nanaimo Old City Association - \$920

Newcastle Community Association - \$920

Protection Island Neighbourhood Association - \$920

Rock City Neighbourhood Association - \$920

Rocky Point Neighbourhood Association - \$920

South End Community Association - \$920

Wellington Action Committee - \$920

BACKGROUND

City Plan encourages supporting neighbourhood associations. At its regular meeting held 2022-DEC-19, Council endorsed the creation of a Neighbourhood Association Grant Program with an annual program budget of \$10,000. Eligible neighbourhood associations within the City of Nanaimo's boundaries may apply for grants up to a maximum of \$1,000 per year. In 2023, nine neighbourhood associations received grants between \$760 and \$1,000. The funds were used for capacity building and event purposes, ranging from meeting space rental, organizational

and event liability insurance fees, postage, society registration, website and Zoom hosting, notice/newsletter printing costs and community surveys, logo design to community BBQs, AGM refreshment supplies, event entertainment, neighbourhood clean up/beautification, and tree planting.

The purpose of the program is to assist recognized neighbourhood associations (Attachment A) as follows:

- Strengthen the organizational capacity of existing and newly created neighbourhood associations; and
- Increase the frequency of community events in neighbourhoods to help build community identity and cohesion.

Recognized neighbourhood associations are those that maintain the required organizational criteria as specified in the City's Neighbourhood Association Supports Policy (Attachment B).

DISCUSSION

Applications for the 2024 Neighbourhood Association Grant Program were accepted between 2023-OCT-16 and 2023-NOV-14. The City received 11 applications with a total requested grant amount of \$10,755. Staff reviewed the applications relative to the 2024 Neighbourhood Association Grant Guidelines and Criteria (Attachment C), and recommend allocating grant funding as follows:

- Brechin Hill Community Association - \$800
- Chase River Community Association - \$920
- Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association - \$920
- Dover Community Association - \$920
- Nanaimo Old City Association - \$920
- Newcastle Community Association - \$920
- Protection Island Neighbourhood Association - \$920
- Rock City Neighbourhood Association - \$920
- Rocky Point Neighbourhood Association - \$920
- South End Community Association - \$920
- Wellington Action Committee - \$920

These 11 neighbourhood associations have indicated compliance with the six organizational criteria for recognized neighbourhood associations. Grant funding will be used for operational and community event costs such as flyer and newsletter printing, meeting/event room rentals, outreach equipment rental/purchase (e.g. tents, banners, tables), food and refreshments, Zoom licence accounts, website administration, social media fees, liability insurance, postage, audio/video equipment rental/purchase, administrative costs, and event materials.

A number of the associations thanked the City for grant funding provided in 2023, noting that this funding was instrumental in allowing them to grow their capacity as organizations and to deliver events and outreach to their neighbourhoods that would not have been possible without the funding. As noted by the Nanaimo Old City Association, "We are grateful for the grant and what we are able to offer the community with it. The opportunity to connect, celebrate and care for our neighbourhood has been greatly enhanced with this grant. Thank you!" And by the Wellington

Action Committee “This grant was very helpful in supporting our existing neighbourhood association by helping us to put on three community events in our neighbourhood and build community identity and cohesion.”]

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve a total of \$10,000, in accordance with the 2024 Neighbourhood Association Grant Guidelines and Criteria as attached, and that the grant allocations be as follows:

Brechin Hill Community Association - \$800

Chase River Community Association - \$920

Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association - \$920

Dover Community Association - \$920

Nanaimo Old City Association - \$920

Newcastle Community Association - \$920

Protection Island Neighbourhood Association - \$920

Rock City Neighbourhood Association - \$920

Rocky Point Neighbourhood Association - \$920

South End Community Association - \$920

Wellington Action Committee - \$920

- The advantages of this option: 11 neighbourhood associations will receive operational and event support funding based on fulfilling the guidelines and criteria of the Neighbourhood Association Grant Program.
- The disadvantages of this option: None identified.
- Financial Implications: The recommendation allocates the full \$10,000 Neighbourhood Association Grant Program budget.

2. That Council provide alternate direction.]

SUMMARY POINTS

- The purpose of the Neighbourhood Association Grant Program is to assist recognized neighbourhood associations with costs for operational needs and community events.
- The City received 11 Neighbourhood Association Grant applications with a total requested amount of \$10,755 for 2024.
- The total budget for the 2024 Neighbourhood Association Grant Program is \$10,000, with a maximum grant of \$1,000 available per applicant.
- Staff are recommending that 11 grants be awarded totaling \$10,000.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Neighbourhood Association Organizational Criteria Status (2023-OCT-13)

ATTACHMENT B: Neighbourhood Association Supports Policy

ATTACHMENT C: Neighbourhood Association Grants Program Guidelines and Criteria |

Submitted by:

Lisa Brinkman
Manager, Community Planning |

Concurrence by:

Laura Mercer
Director, Finance

Jeremy Holm
Director, Planning & Development |