

Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING June 27, 2025

AUTHORED BY DARCIE OSBORNE, DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

SUBJECT **CIVIC SPORT MERIT AWARDS AND ARTS AND CULTURE MERIT AWARDS COUNCIL POLICY (COU-014) AMENDMENT**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To consider expanding the Civic Sports Merit Awards and Arts and Culture Merit Awards program to include participating citizens from the Regional District of Nanaimo contributing Electoral Areas A, B, C, and the District of Lantzville

Recommendation:

That the Special District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Committee recommend that Council support including those who participate in Nanaimo based sports, or arts and culture organizations from Electoral Areas A (Cassidy, Cedar, Yellow Point and South Wellington), B (Gabriola, Mudge and Decourcy Islands), C (Extension, Arrowsmith Benson, East Wellington and Pleasant Valley) and the District of Lantzville be eligible for awards through the City's Civic Sports Merit Awards and Arts and Culture Merit Awards program subject to District of Lantzville Council and Regional District of Nanaimo Board approval.

BACKGROUND

At the Special District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Committee Meeting 2024-NOV-06 the following motion was made:

That Council direct City staff to work collaboratively with Regional District of Nanaimo staff to conduct a review of the Civic Merit Awards and Culture Merit Awards Program, and prepare a report with options, and financial implications, associated with expanding the programs to include contributing members for the Committee's consideration.

Since 1981, the City of Nanaimo (the City) has formally recognized groups and individuals who represent the City, and have won a gold medal or are first place winners in the areas of sports, and visual and performing arts at a Provincial, Western Canadian, National or International level.

Since 2010, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has been running a parallel program recognizing groups and individuals from City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and Electoral Areas E,F,G,& H who have won a gold medal or are first place winners in the areas of sports, and visual and performing arts at a Provincial, Western Canadian, National or International level.

Currently, there is no award recognition for citizens who reside in RDN Electoral Areas A, B, C and the District of Lantzville.

DISCUSSION

Parks, Recreation and Culture staff from both organizations met to review their respective sport and culture award programs.

The current City of Nanaimo Civic Sport Merit Awards and Arts and Culture Merit Awards Council Policy (COU-014) states that all individual participants must reside in the City of Nanaimo (see Attachment A). Expanding the program to include those who reside in RDN Electoral Areas A, B, C and District of Lantzville would provide recognition to those currently not being recognised and in particular to those who participate alongside City of Nanaimo residents.

Awards presentations could be expanded to include the RDN contributing areas as noted above and should include elected officials from those electoral areas.

Any additional costs associated with this change in council policy would need to be identified with full compensation from the RDN and the District of Lantzville to the City. These costs would include but are not limited to medals, certifications, framing and hospitality.

Next Steps:

The Committee through this report would be seeking City of Nanaimo Council's support to expand the program to include Electoral Areas, A, B, C, and the District of Lantzville. If supported, representatives on the Special District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Committee would then take the matter to their respective Council and Board for funding consideration. If supported by the District of Lantzville Council, and the Regional District of Nanaimo Board, staff would then present Council with an amendment to City of Nanaimo Council's policy to formally include Electoral Areas, A, B, C, and the District of Lantzville in the program.

OPTIONS

Option 1:

That the Special District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Committee recommend that Council support including those who participate in Nanaimo based sports, or arts and culture organizations from Electoral Areas A (Cassidy, Cedar, Yellow Point and South Wellington), B (Gabriola, Mudge and Decourcy Islands), C (Extension, Arrowsmith Benson, East Wellington and Pleasant Valley) and the District of Lantzville be eligible for awards through the City's Civic Sports Merit Awards and Arts and Culture Merit Awards program subject to District of Lantzville Council and Regional District of Nanaimo Board approval.

- The advantage of this option: Recognition to residents who currently reside in RDN Electoral Areas A, B,C & District of Lantzville
- The disadvantages of this option: N/A
- Financial Implications: Identified costs would be fully compensated by the District of Lantzville, and the Regional District of Nanaimo, as applicable.

Option 2:

That the Special District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Committee provide alternate direction. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- Currently residents in the RDN Electoral Areas A, B, C and District of Lantzville have no award program.
- Combining the City, RDN, and District of Lantzville Civic Award events would allow for recognition of individual's and teams' excellence in sports, and visual and performing arts in the areas where there is currently no program.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Civic Sport Merit Awards and Arts and Culture Merit Awards Council
Policy COU-014.

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

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CAO