

COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	M&C 2018-357
Report Date	December 11, 2018
Meeting Date	December 17, 2018
Service Area	Transportation and Environment Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

SUBJECT: 2019 Community Grants Selection

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION

This matter is to be discussed in open session of Common Council.

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
<i>Brad Adams</i>	<i>Tim O'Reilly/ Michael Hugenholtz</i>	<i>Neil Jacobsen</i>

RECOMMENDATIONS

City Staff recommends the following for disbursement of 2019 Community Grants funding:

- 1) Execution of the Community Grants process as outlined in the Municipal Grants Program Manual as adopted in 2015, and
- 2) Allow the Community Grants Committee to recommend to Council if none or some funding should be withheld for a second consideration of Special Events applications as per the Manual as described in M&C 2018-357.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In light the Community Grants Program budget, City Staff believe that program management should continue as defined in the Municipal Grants Program Manual and awarded based off of the recommendations of the Community Grants Committee by way of Councils approval.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

See the attached letter penned to Council and reviewed on May 22nd, 2018 during Open Session.

REPORT

It is the intention of City Staff to facilitate the awarding of Community Grants funding by way of the Community Grants Committee in January, 2019. Each year,

the Committee receives many more applications than funding allows. In 2018 for example, over \$600,000 in applications were received for \$179,721 in funding. The Committee plays a vital role in selecting and awarding funds based on the defined process outlined in the Municipal Grants Program Manual. The Community Grants Committee wishes to thank Common Council and City Departments for continued support including the referral of requests for their review as has been the case through 2018.

Community Grants are awarded in three categories; Operational Funding, Community Projects, and Special Events. These categories are described in the attached documentation.

The Community Grants budget was, at the time the Manual was developed, envisioned being over \$400,000. The proposed amount for 2019 is \$179,721. Some of this original budget was directed to the multi-year Neighbourhood Service Agreements. Given the proposed amount for 2019 and the historic higher value of requested funding compared to budget, it is recommended by City Staff that the Committee distribute funding in early 2019 without withholding a defined reserve amount. If thorough review of all applications yields a remaining amount of funds, those remaining funds will be recommended by the Committee to be withheld for a second application window for the consideration of Special Events applications. This approach ensures the City does not risk overlooking strong applications that were submitted within the defined guidelines during the first application window. Ultimately, Council will have the opportunity to approve the Committee's recommendations.

Staff would like to review the Community Grants process given the changes to the funding model once the City can consider long term financial sustainability solutions. Until such time, City staff recommends adherence to the 2015 Policy.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The City's Community Grants Program aligns with Council's priorities of:

- investing in arts, culture and recreation that create a sense of community pride, and
- exploring service improvements through developing partnerships with other organizations.

The Community Grants Program also aligns with PlaySJ's mandate of developing partnerships in the community management of the City's parks and recreation services and infrastructure.

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

The draft 2019 General Funding Operating Budget includes a \$179,721 Community Grants Budget. The 2019 Operating Budget has not yet been approved by Council

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Community Grants will be awarded after considerations from the Community Grants Committee in early 2019.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A - Letter reviewed in open council on May 22nd, 2018
Appendix B – Community Grants Application Criteria