



Received Date	May 15, 2018
Meeting Date	May 22, 2018
Open or Closed	Open Session

His Worship Don Darling and
Members of Common Council

Your Worship and Councillors:

Subject: Community Grants Committee

Background:

A few years ago Council established the Community Grants Committee. Members of the public and two elected members sit on this committee. From our budget a certain amount of money is given to this line item. As requests for funding come to the city through our budget process, and also throughout the year, these requests should be referred by Council in Open Session to the Community Grants Committee.

Two years ago the committee discussed at a meeting held in late January that they would not allocate all the funding at once and then they could meet again throughout the year and review any requests that might come in at a later time. This was not accepted well by Council. Council at the time thought that all the monies should be given out at the first of the year. So when this was discussed at the first meeting of the Community Grants Committee this year, it was decided to allocate the entire amount of funding given to the committee all at once.

If we changed our view on that issue and agreed that the Community Grants Committee should hold some of the funding back so that they could have a mid-year committee meeting or have a later committee meeting in the year and review additional requests for funding then we could refer late funding requests coming to Council to the Community Grants Committee and not have monies taken from the Council budget or as some, still think, the City Manager's budget. I say that as the City Manager doesn't have monies in his budget for this item or at least not that I know of.

I also think that all Departments should refer all requests for funding through the Community Grants Committee and that to me would include the Parks Department as I believe that they receive a number of requests. I think that to be fair and accountable to all the public we should refer all requests for monies to the one committee and that is what we wanted to do in the beginning, its just that we are not always following that direction. For example; at our last Council meeting we gave \$2,000.00 for the support of mental health and \$1000.00 to BCIPI (both very worthwhile causes) and both these amounts were taken from our Council budget and to me that is not the way it should be managed.



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So I know it is almost mid-year and the Community Grants Committee doesn't have any funding left but I still think we could start now and refer requests to them. If we are agreeable on how this should be done then maybe the Commissioner of Finance could suggest where a few dollars could be moved from another source to the Community Grants Committee, if that can not happen, then I would like for us to have this as a policy so that when we do our budget for 2019 that we follow this procedure.

Motion:

That this issue be referred to the City Manager to re-visit our policy for our Community Grants Committee and have all requests for funding of grants referred to that committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

(Received via email)

Shirley McAlary
Deputy Mayor
City of Saint John



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