

COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2019-23
Report Date	February 05, 2019
Meeting Date	February 11, 2019
Service Area	Transportation and Environment Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

SUBJECT: Service Agreements – Priority Neighbourhood Associations

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION

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

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- 1) Common Council approve service agreements with the Priority Neighbourhood Association's identified in this report, and that;
- 2) The City Solicitor be directed to prepare all necessary documents outlining the terms and conditions for specific Service Agreement with each Neighbourhood Association, and that;
- 3) The Mayor and Common Clerk be authorized to sign any required documentation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2009 Common Council has valued and strongly supported the work of the Priority Neighbourhood Associations that have positioned themselves as the community recognized social and neighbourhood change agent leaders. From 2009 to 2014 Common Council supported these neighbourhoods through the Neighbourhood Development Stimulation Grant. In 2015 continued support was made through the City's Community Grant Program.

During the 2016 budget deliberations Common Council agreed with the need for establishing service agreements with these priority neighbourhood associations to the total funding envelope of \$152,000 which was provided through the original grant program for these groups.

These service agreements are vital to the sustainability and support of these organizations at the most foundational level of our community, the neighbourhood.

This grant program has supported staffing, leadership capacity building and program initiatives in the community resulting in a high level of neighbourhood engagement and participation. The program targets funding towards Saint John's five priority neighbourhoods which include: Lower West side, South end, Waterloo Village, Crescent Valley, the old North end and the Teen Resource Centre. As a result priority neighbourhoods are more empowered in their respective communities and have strengthened their inter-neighbourhood relationships and connection through community networking

These community groups are the catalyst in connecting people by organizing social and recreational events; offering safe haven; and mobilizing to make positive change in their respective neighbourhoods. They make positive impact through advocacy, collaboration and creating opportunities by bringing residents together and fostering neighbourhood pride.

The Priority Neighbourhood Organizations identified and listed in this report for a service agreement continue to demonstrate perseverance and the ability to leverage additional funding and "in kind" support from local business, community supporters and other levels of government.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

March 7, 2016, Common Council approved a three year service agreement with the five Priority Neighbourhoods and the Teen Resource Centre.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Service Agreements with the Priority Neighbourhood Associations align with Common Council's:

- Vibrant, Safe City priority related to supporting liveable neighbourhoods and community pride, and
- Valued Service Delivery priority through developing partnerships with organizations.

These agreements also support PlaySJ's vision of providing recreational services and programs through the community partnership model.

REPORT

Staff is recommending a two year service agreement with six neighbourhood organizations.

Respective service agreements (Appendices A – F) covers both common and specific obligations that each organization will meet in relation to neighbourhood deliverables / outcomes and impact expected.

A robust evaluation process has been designed that will measure the impact on the respective neighbourhoods. (Appendix G).

Waterloo Village Association

This service agreement is with the Saint John Learning Exchange who will house the Waterloo Village Association Neighbourhood Organizer.

The goal is to sustain the employment of the Neighbourhood Organizer staff position to work in the Waterloo Village Neighbourhood by planning, building resident capacity, and developing new programs and initiatives. The Saint John Learning Exchange assumes supervisory responsibilities for the Community Organizer who works directly with the neighbourhoods to support their priorities and achieve their goals.

“Around the Block Neighbourhood Newspaper” – Human Development Council

Around The Block focuses on the positive and celebrates achievements in our five priority neighbourhoods (Old North End, Lower West Side, Lower South End, Crescent Valley and the Waterloo-Village). The paper also celebrates successes of other neighbourhoods such as Anglin Drive and Reading Crescent / Roxbury Drive. Around the Block includes a French article in every issue.

This neighbourhood paper continues to evolve and improve in both quality and quantity. The paper brings together the priority neighbourhoods by using this tool to promote, communicate and praise each neighbourhood’s accomplishments and success stories. Furthermore, it provides learning and educational opportunities for residents to be authors of stories in the newspaper.

The Human Development Council assumes supervisory responsibilities for the “Around the Block Neighbourhood Newspaper” Coordinator who works directly with the all five priority neighbourhoods to support their priorities and achieve their goals.

ONE Change Inc.

The ONE Change Inc. is a renewal request for financial support to sustain employment of their Neighbourhood Coordinator position.

This position continues to build leadership capacity in the community and develop program opportunities resulting in positive outcomes for the neighbourhood. The ONE Change works with an ever growing number of neighbourhood partners including the Main Street Baptist Church, Centennial School, Teen Resource Centre, Horizon Health and the City of Saint John.

Funds will sustain a full-time Neighbourhood Coordinator position to work with the community case worker, recreation coordinator and academic case worker now in place as a result of federal funding received by the ONE Change.

The Coordinator will also supervise student placements, volunteers, and community service for offenders.

This position is critical in bringing the neighbourhood together and will be a vital component of attracting the neighbourhood back to the revitalized C.E. Nicolle Community Centre.

PULSE (People United Lower South End)

PULSE is requesting funding from the City of Saint John to support staffing and program initiatives at the Neighbourhood Resource Centre and Community Police office located on Wentworth Street.

PULSE operates this building through a board of directors, one part-time staff and volunteers in the community. This group is requesting funding to sustain the Operations Manager staff position which is responsible to schedule and supervise the resource centre, and coordinate neighbourhood programs in the South End.

PULSE has taken a leadership role in the community by strengthening partnerships, providing seasonal programs, implementing projects such as the Rainbow Park revitalization program, community clean-ups, adopt a block program and many other special projects for the South End neighbourhood.

PULSE continues to build partnerships in the neighbourhood and engage residents by providing programs and services and serving an advocacy role for improving the quality of life in the South End.

Crescent Valley Resource Centre

The Crescent Valley Resource Centre is a renewal application for financial support of the Crescent Valley Resource Centre and the employment of the CVRC Executive Director.

The Crescent Valley Resource Centre Executive Director has formed a strong community network while overseeing the operation of the Resource Centre. The CVRC offers free programming and services aimed at building leadership and resiliency in individuals and families in the neighbourhood. Connecting to individuals in the neighbourhood revolves around an engagement of placing decision making, responsibility, and opportunity in the hands of residents; which builds the capacity and connectivity within the neighbourhood.

The CVRC networks with other key community organizations to assist residents especially those who are facing challenges. They work at empowering residents to achieve healthy lifestyles, develop personal growth and acquire leadership skills. The programs and services offered are varied and provide the opportunity to work with children, youth, adults and seniors.

Teen Resource Centre for Youth (TRC)

The TRC is requesting continued support to employ staff for the Oasis Program . The Oasis Program provides services and support to youth who are living in a vulnerable situation or who are homeless. The Oasis Program provides youth with on-site access to shower and laundry facilities, clothing, personal hygiene supplies, counseling and access to other supports in their time of need. The TRC Oasis program was noted as an excellent model at the National Homeless Conference held in Ontario 2008.

The TRC wishes to continue the Oasis program and the hot lunch program. TRC Case Management service continues to work and build relationships with Oasis clients and offer them opportunities and support for an exit from street life. The impact of this program is illustrated very well by the testimonial that is included in the submission of their program

Carleton Community Centre Inc.

The Carleton Community Centre Inc. is expected to become the new service provider for the Lower West Side. The Carleton Community Centre Inc. is just completing it's first year as the service provider at the Carleton Community Centre and has been approved to provide services for a second year.

Staff expects to provide an additional report for a \$20,000 agreement for review and approval in early March, 2019.

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

The service agreements with these associations (the six recommended in this report and the one expected in March) match the \$152,000 as approved by Common Council as part of the 2019 General Fund Operating Budget. The value of each agreement is as follows:

Waterloo Village Association: \$22,000
Around the Block – HDC: \$22,000
ONE Change Inc. : \$23,500
PULSE: \$21,000
Crescent Valley Resource Centre: \$23,500
Teen Resource Centre for Youth: \$20,000

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The City's Legal Department assisted in developing the agreements.

The Neighbourhood Action Group worked with the City on these agreements on behalf of the neighbourhoods.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendices A – F Service Agreements
Appendix G - Proposals and Evaluation Reporting Framework