



Subject: Community Grant Awards

Report to: Thorold City Council

Recommendations

1. That the Community Grant funding and in-kind requests, **BE APPROVED** as outlined in this report; and
2. That the lighting fees for Thorold Minor Baseball and Thorold Minor Soccer **BE WAIVED** through the Community Grant Program.

Key Facts

- The Community Grants budget is available for Community Organizations to request financial and in-kind assistance from the City for programs and services that will improve the quality of life and well-being of Thorold residents.
- The City of Thorold received Community Grant Applications from the Thorold Reed Band and the Thorold Garden Club for 2023.
- Staff reviewed 2023 Grant Applications to confirm eligibility and community impact for Council consideration.
- Staff received direction from Council to review lighting fees for Thorold Minor Baseball and Thorold Minor Soccer.

Budgetary Status

There is \$30,641 available in the Community Grant Budget.

The Thorold Reed Band has requested \$4800 from the City of Thorold to cover the cost of a musical director for the band's Battle of Beaverdams Pop Series. They have additionally requested in-kind use of the Battle of Beaverdams Park and Band shell. The Thorold Garden Club has requested \$1000 to fund horticulture initiatives in the City.

Analysis

Staff reviewed and scored 2023 Community Grant Applications on several categories as outlined in Policy 100-08. The evaluation criteria and weighted value are as follows:

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- Community Benefit 20%
 - Accountability 10%
 - Duplication 10%
 - Goals and Objectives 10%
 - Financial Viability 10%
 - Demonstrated Need 40%

“Demonstrated Need” is weighted the highest (40%), as the onus is on the organization to demonstrate the need for financial assistance from taxpayer dollars. “Community Benefit” is weighted second highest (20%) over the other remaining categories as a determinant of value to the community at-large. Applications scoring less than 50% on their final score are not eligible to receive in kind services or financial assistance as per policy.

Both the Thorold Garden Club and Thorold Reed Band meet the pre-requisites for the Thorold Community Grant Program. Current budget allows the City to fund each organizations financial request in full.

Thorold Minor Baseball and Thorold Minor Soccer previously communicated concerns regarding new lighting fees for Sports Fields. Council provided direction to staff to review the updated user group fees for Thorold Minor Baseball and Thorold Minor Soccer. Staff recommend incorporating this request into the Community Grant Program while fees are reviewed.

Alternatives Reviewed

Staff considered the option to defer awarding Community Grants until the revised fees for Thorold Minor Baseball and Thorold Minor Soccer are presented in the forthcoming 2023 Rates and Fees Report. However, in order to provide funds to the Thorold Reed Band and Thorold Horticultural Society in a timely manner so they can commence their respective programs, it is recommended that the Community Grants report proceed as presented.

Relationship to Strategic Plan

The recommendation is consistent with Council's Strategic Priorities;

- Vibrant, Inclusive Communities

Other Pertinent Reports

Not Applicable.

Prepared by:

Stephanie Jarvis
Program Supervisor, Community
Services

Recommended by:

Geoff Holman
Director, Public Works & Community
Service



Approved and Submitted by:

Manoj Dilwaria
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendices

Appendix 1 Community Grant Budget Summary