



Subject: Community Grants

Report to: Thorold City Council

Recommendations

1. That the funding allocations for Community Grants **BE APPROVED** as outlined in Appendix 1.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of funding allocations for the 2024 Community Grant requests.
- 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 for the residents of Thorold.
- The City of Thorold received nine (9) grant submissions requesting support.

Budgetary Status

\$36,895 was approved in the 2024 operating budget for miscellaneous Community Grants. Appendix 1 shows the requested amounts from each group as well as Staff recommendations.

Analysis

Staff have completed a preliminary review of the 2024 grant applications received. Based on the requests from groups in the grant applications Staff recommend that the amounts listed in Appendix 1 be approved for each group. The total amount requested was \$206,850. Staff recommend approval of \$40,850 representing a budget overrun of \$3,955. However, Staff have recommended that \$4,000 of funding for The Runway of Recognition be treated as a loan, and, once returned would result in a budget surplus of \$45.

1. **The Thorold Museum** has requested **\$122,100** to fund their proposed 2024 budget. The museum aims to create a Thorold Museum and Cultural Centre that they would operate once complete. The funds requested are for the purpose of

organizing the collection and operating a place of business to address City and museum related issues, including coordination of major fundraising. Staff recommend that **\$10,000** in grant funding is approved to fund initial operating costs for the leased space for the museum group as identified in PWCS 43-2024 (also on this agenda).

2. **The Thorold Horticultural Society** has requested **\$1,000** to fund a variety of initiatives. The Thorold Horticultural Society aims to promote interest and advances in gardening, horticulture and related environmental issues. The money requested is to be used for activities such as Tree of Life plantings, a student award, meetings, contests, and purchase of horticultural related materials for the Thorold Library. Staff recommend that \$1,000 in grant funding is approved for the Thorold Horticultural Society to continue their operations.
3. **The Thorold Reed Band** has requested **\$5,500** to fund their Conductor's salary and purchase liability insurance. The Thorold Reed band is a community-based band in Thorold that has been performing regular summer concerts since 1851 along with other performances. Staff recommend that \$5,500 be approved for the Thorold Reed Band and that the Thorold Reed Band agree to entertain a flexible schedule in order to accommodate a variety of other performances and music at the Thorold Community Market events.
4. **The Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council 2319** has requested in-kind services totaling an estimated **\$500**. The Knights of Columbus empowers catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their community. The in-kind services requested are to be used to cover the costs associated with providing 12 traffic barriers and 6 picnic tables delivered and picked up from the parking lot at the fourth annual Garden Fest and 3rd annual Harvest Fest at Holy Rosary Hall in Thorold. Staff recommend that \$500 is approved to fund the needed staff time to deliver and pick up traffic barriers and picnic tables for these two events.
5. **The Thorold Runway of Recognition** has requested **\$4,000** to initially fund their 2024 event as well as in-kind services totaling an estimated **\$150**. The Runway of Recognition Awards are a community lead initiative to honour and perpetuate the names and deeds of those individuals whose athletic or contributions to Thorold Sport have brought fame to themselves, their community or created a climate that benefits athletes and athletics. The funds requested are to be used as seed money to fund their 2024 event and cover expenses such as plaques and trophies, dinner, and program printing. The in-kind services requested are to transport awards and install awards at the Thorold Arena. City Staff recommend approval to fund the in-kind services totaling an estimated \$150 as well as to provide the funds to be used as seed money with the expectation that once

revenues from the event are generated the grant funding will be returned to the City of Thorold up to the amount of \$4,000 recommended.

6. **Thorold Minor Baseball** has requested fee waivers and in-kind services totaling an estimated **\$3,000**. Thorold Minor Baseball provides youth baseball programming. The fee waivers and in-kind services requested are to be used to cover the costs associated with providing the use of fields, lighting and maintenance of the fields so that Thorold Minor Baseball can keep costs down and offer more programming. Staff recommend that \$3000 is approved to fund the required staff time to maintain fields, cover the costs of field lighting and cover the cost of field usage for the 2024 season.
7. **Thorold Minor Soccer Club** has requested fee waivers totaling an estimated **\$1,700**. Thorold Minor Soccer provides a welcoming safe place for the youth of our community to play the sport of Soccer. The fee waivers are requested to cover the costs associated with the use of C.E. Grosse, South Confederation and Rolling Meadows fields. Staff recommend that \$1,700 is approved to fund the fee waiver for Thorold Minor Soccer for their 2024 season.
8. **One Thorold** aims to promote Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation programs in Thorold. One Thorold Truth and Reconciliation Committee has requested items totaling **\$67,000** to fund their 2024 programming. Funding in the amount of 10,000 is requested for maintenance including plants and materials for the Healing Garden, Events throughout the Summer and Fall as well as marketing materials. The total for in-kind services that Staff recommend equal an estimated \$5,000 and is comprised of the use of, delivery, and set up of City of Thorold tents for events, and Media and Communication Specialist staff time for marketing. Not considered within the In Kind requests are an additional portable toilet as it would be difficult to service. Additionally, Staff recommend deferring a water system request until Decew road improvements are scheduled as this would greatly reduce the cost of this service. Staff recommend that **\$15,000** is approved to fund the proposed budget which includes \$5,000 of agreed upon in-kind services.
9. **Thorold Elite Track Club** has requested **\$1,900** to fund various parts of their 2024 budget. The Thorold Elite Track Club was founded in 2016 with the goal of removing barriers for athletes and increasing the participation of track and field in Niagara. The funds requested are to support funding meets and community events and purchase of additional equipment to support growing membership. This application was received several days after the deadline period. City Staff recommend to not approve this grant request as the application was received after the deadline.

Impact on the Environment, Climate Change

There are no known environmental or climate change related impacts to this Report.

Alternatives Reviewed

None

Relationship to Strategic Plan

The recommendations in this report support Council's strategic plan

- Vibrant, Inclusive Neighbourhoods

Other Pertinent Reports

PWCS 43-2024 (on this agenda)

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This report was prepared in consultation with Dave Baldoni, Manager Community Services, and reviewed by Geoff Holman, Director, Public Works and Community Services.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Recommended Allocations of Community Grant funds

Appendix 1

	Group	Requested Amount	Staff Recommendation
1.	Museum	\$122,100	\$10,000
2.	Horticultural Society	\$1,000	\$1,000
3.	Thorold Reed Band	\$5,500	\$5,500
4.	Knights of Columbus	\$500	\$500
5.	The Runway of Recognition	\$4,150	\$4,150
	The Runway of Recognition (loan) To be returned to the City once revenues received		(\$4,000)
6.	Thorold Minor Baseball	\$3,000	\$3,000
7.	Thorold Minor Soccer	\$1,700	\$1,700
8.	One Thorold	\$67,000	\$15,000
9.	Thorold Elite T&F	\$1,900	\$0
	Total	\$206,850	\$36,850
	Budget surplus		(\$45)