

## **2021 Neighbourhood Association Annual Grant Allocation By-Law**

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Prepared by:	Cindy Dent Leisure Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Development

### **Report Summary**

This report provides information regarding the 2021 applications received for Neighbourhood Association grants. Grants will be released subject to Council's approval of the applicable by-law.

### **Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)**

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan in the area of Creating a Healthier Community as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Play, Families, and Age Friendly Strategy. Neighbourhood Associations create and deliver services to improve the health and well-being of youth, families and seniors and maintaining public spaces. The annual grants assist the Neighbourhood Associations in these areas.

### **Financial Implications**

Funds are budgeted in the 2021 Leisure Services operating budget under the Neighbourhood Association Annual Grant Allocation.

### **Background**

Neighbourhood Associations are volunteer organizations that work in cooperation with the City of Greater Sudbury (City) to improve the quality of life in their community. Neighbourhood Associations organize and promote local leisure opportunities to meet the needs of area residents. Associations are involved with a variety of programs, activities, and special events including community clean ups, winter carnivals, outdoor rinks and providing community meeting space.

As part of the 2021 budget process, Council approved the annual budget allocation in support of the Neighbourhood Associations in the amount of \$54,281. Annual grants support Neighbourhood Association

activities and events. Neighbourhood Associations which are affiliated with the City are considered for a grant within the limits of the available financial resources. Associations are entitled to no more than one grant per year and are required to complete a grant application form which details the purpose of their grant.

A Post Project Report must be submitted by each Association upon utilization of the funds. Subsequent grant applications from an Association will not be considered unless a Post Project Report has been submitted for previous grants issued to that Association.

The City has received guidance from Public Health with respect to operating fieldhouses and COVID-19 protocols. For outdoor rink programming, fieldhouses can be utilized for washroom use, skate changing and short term warming without proof of vaccination requirements for users. Should neighbourhood volunteers choose to operate canteens, food and drink must be consumed outdoors, as indoor consumption requires proof of vaccination. Proof of vaccination will be required for fieldhouse bookings relating to private events (birthday parties etc.) and special events. Approval of these events will be dependent on the ability to resource and implement proof of vaccination requirements. Neighbourhood Associations have been challenged in their fundraising efforts as a result of COVID 19 requirements. The annual neighbourhood grants remain a critical source of funding to ensure these volunteers are adequately funded to support the outdoor rink program.

The following is a summary of eligible grant expenditures:

#### Equipment

Equipment purchases should create opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to take part in a wide range of sports and leisure programs. The purchased materials will remain the property of the City of Greater Sudbury should the Association dissolve.

#### Community Special Events

Community Special Events hosted by the Association will reflect neighbourhood needs and priorities. Localized special events allow volunteers to create new partnerships, sponsorships, attract new volunteers and foster community engagement and involvement for all ages.

#### Operating Costs

Operating costs are defined as the Association's ongoing costs, (i.e. purchase of snow blower, mail outs, gas, oil, telephone, etc.) Funds may not be used to hire staff. The intent of the operating fund is to assist Associations in effectively conducting their business and enabling them to use their own fundraising dollars for ongoing activities.

Grant applications have been reviewed by an ad-hoc committee consisting of Leisure Services Division staff and Neighbourhood Associations volunteer(s). The attached summary sheet (Appendix A – Neighbourhood Association 2021 Grant Allocation) outlines the 2021 allocation requests. The budgeted funds are being distributed to a total of 40 Neighbourhood Associations.