

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 2020 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.

As referenced in the report to City Council on October 20, 2020, titled, COVID 19 Response Update, outdoor rinks will operate this season. Information was provided on the Outdoor Rink Reopening Plan that would continue to support volunteers and provide staff towards the operation of outdoor rinks beginning in mid-late December, weather permitting. All COVID 19 guidelines and protocols will be enforced and adhered to, including but not limited to, gathering limits, social distancing and facial coverings. Neighbourhood Associations have been advised that no events or rentals, such as carnivals/birthday parties be permitted at these locations until further notice.

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. Costs to hire staff are not eligible for funding. 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 volunteers. The attached summary sheet (Appendix A – Neighbourhood Association 2020 Grant Allocation) outlines the 2020 allocation requests. The budgeted funds are being distributed to a total of 31 Neighbourhood Associations.