

Township of  
**Langley**



Est. 1873

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

<b>PRESENTED:</b>	NOVEMBER 18, 2019 - REGULAR AFTERNOON MEETING	<b>REPORT:</b>	19-183
<b>FROM:</b>	ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES	<b>FILE:</b>	1850-20
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GRANTS		

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

**That** Council consider amending Community Grant Program Policy No: 06-022 to add two new categories for community grants including the Ceremonial Flyby Grant and the Community Association Grant;

**That** Council consider setting a maximum grant of \$1,000 per community association in each of the six defined communities (Aldergrove, Brookwood/Fernridge, Fort Langley, Murrayville, Walnut Grove, Willoughby/Willowbrook);

**That** Council consider endorsing the provision of one grant per one community association in each of the Township's six communities under the new grants category;

**That** Council consider adopting specific criteria outside of general grants criteria for the Community Association Grant category as follows:

1. That applicants must be registered non-profit groups or organizations with a valid society certificate;
2. That applicants must have a minimum 25 members who reside in the community that an association deems to represent;
3. That applicants must provide an annual membership list with addresses of members for Township staff and Council to review in consideration of their funding requests;
4. That applicants must provide an annual list of their Board of Directors with addresses for Township staff and Council to review in consideration of their funding requests;
5. That applicants must present a list of activities that they plan to undertake during the year in which a grant is being requested;
6. That the activities that an applicant proposes to undertake are impartial and not advocacy-based;
7. That the applicant association refrains from supporting/endorsing candidates or individuals in municipal and/or other government elections.
8. That the applicant association remains neutral in its collection of community feedback and input, and presents such data to Council without promoting one position over another, other than revealing the results;
9. That the applicant association must provide copies of its current bylaws and constitution for Council and staff to review annually in consideration of their grant;
10. That the applicant association provide annual financial statements, minutes of their last AGM and a summary of their initiatives undertaken during the past year that it has received a grant.

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11. That the applicant must acknowledge the financial contribution of the Township of Langley on their websites, but not on any materials pursuant to their activities in the community, unless otherwise pre-approved by Council or staff; and

**That** Council approve, in its budget deliberations, an additional annual amount for community grants of up to \$7,500 to cover the two new grant categories.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The majority of Council has indicated support for the creation of a new grants category that would provide funds for Community Associations and has requested that staff provide a list of recommended criteria for their consideration. During the past two years staff have reported back to Council on a few occasions in regards to the work that the Township, its various departments, Council approved committees, and appointed ad hoc task forces does to gather community input and feedback on issues of planning, development, growth, policy and other timely matters that help provide for informed decision making. Council is now choosing to add Community Associations as another method for gathering that community input.

Staff are now recommending a list of criteria that will ensure, a non-political approach is taken by local community associations in the gathering of information for Council's future considerations and recommending a level of support to such community associations that have previously been unencumbered by existing community grants general criteria intended for project and event specific activities.

In this way, Community Associations can use the funds for whatever purposes they deem necessary in the fulfillment of their specialized mandates and roles they have defined for themselves in their respective communities.

**PURPOSE:** To report back on recommended criteria for a Community Associations grant category in response to Council's desire to establish a new category separate from the Community Grants - General Category.

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**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

At the January 29, 2018 Regular Evening Council meeting, a delegation with representatives from a few Community Associations appeared before Council, requesting that Community Associations be allowed to apply and receive funding for their ongoing community engagement activities through the Community Grants program. The delegation was referred to staff for a report on funding of Community Associations.

Several Community Associations applied for Community Grants in 2018. As part of the 2018 Capital Improvement and Community Grants report, staff made the following recommendation:

*That Council amend Policy 06-021 to qualify All Candidates Meetings as a fundable event by which Community and Neighbourhood Associations and other like non-profit groups may host such a forum during Municipal Election years and that Council set the upper grant limit at \$200 to help cover a portion of the meeting cost; and that up to one grant to be awarded in each of the seven defined communities.*

1. Aldergrove
2. Brookwood / Fernridge
3. Fort Langley
4. Murrayville
5. Walnut Grove
6. Willowbrook / Willoughby
7. Rural; and

*That Council approve a payment of \$200, to each of the following three Community Associations: Brookwood/Fernridge Community Association; Fort Langley Community Association; and Willoughby Residents Association.*

At that April 9, 2018 Regular Afternoon meeting, the motion was amended and deferred as follows:

*That Council approve a new category of community grants oriented towards registered Community Associations, and that each registered association be eligible to receive \$1,000 per year to fund and host events in their community.*

*That this motion and amendment be deferred until after Council has received a report from staff on the concept of grants to registered non-profit entities to provide community services, and a receipt of input from the Community Associations.*

A staff report regarding Community Associations was then provided at the February 11, 2019 Regular Afternoon meeting, which provided background on the grants program and offered three proposed options for Council's consideration. The following motion was referred to the Council Priorities Committee:

*That Council, having considered the breadth and scope of community engagement mechanisms and opportunities it has established and undertaken, consider the three (3) options proposed below in response to the two (2) delegations who came to the January 29, 2018 Regular Evening Meeting of Township of Langley Council requesting funding for the activities of their respective Community Associations:*

1. *That Council direct staff to inform and encourage registered non-profit community groups, including Community Associations, to consider existing Township of Langley grant criteria and submit future applications for funding with qualifying proposals that include outcome specific projects and events; or*

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*2. That Council direct staff to investigate further mechanisms and opportunities for community engagement and enhanced online public information gathering and report back to Council with their findings; or*

*3. That Council consider the 2018 recommendation of staff to provide grants to Community Associations that are prorated according to attendance at qualifying information/forum style events such as all candidates meetings and to direct staff to continue implementing grant criteria and policy.*

In 2019, four Community associations applied for a Community Grant, three of which did not meet existing grants criteria. At the March 11, 2019 Council Priorities Committee, a report was received regarding the 2019 Capital Improvement and Community Grants. As part of that report, staff made the following recommendation, which was then recommended for approval by the Council Priorities Committee and adopted at the March 11, 2019 Regular Afternoon meeting of Council:

*That Council provide a \$1000 Grant to each applicant Community Association outside of the Community Grants Criteria for 2019 and provide staff with authority to adjust the approved amounts in the affected budget category accordingly; and further*

*That Council consider establishing a new mechanism for funding Community Associations, outside of the current Community Grants Program, with new policy and specific criteria that ensures accountability and fair non-political community representation that reflects existing community engagement processes.*

At the October 21, 2019 Council Priorities Committee meeting, staff provided a presentation to Council regarding the Community Grants program and criteria, including a discussion regarding Community Associations. At that meeting, the following motion was approved, and then adopted at the November 4, 2019 Regular Afternoon meeting of Council:

*That Council direct staff to add Community Associations to the Community Grant Process as a separate category; and*

*That staff report back on what the criteria will be for Community Associations.*

As directed, staff are now reporting back to provide recommendations regarding the establishment of criteria for the Community Associations grant category.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

During the past two years Council has reviewed a number of requests from a few local community associations for grants in support of their activities. The Community Associations have expressed difficulty in qualifying for community grants that require the involvement of a minimum 250 citizens in events or program based activities. The Community Associations have also had difficulty demonstrating that other avenues of income generation have been pursued and have mostly presented membership revenues that are insufficient to support their activities.

In Council discussions around community associations, there has been much consideration given to the value of such organizations in providing feedback about the communities they serve. While staff have presented other mechanisms of community engagement and gathering community input and feedback, Council and some staff often seek input and opinion from Community Associations on items and current issues. At the November 4 Regular Afternoon

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meeting, Council directed staff to add Community Associations as a separate grants category in the community grants process and to come back to them with some grants criteria for Council to consider.

**Applicable Policies:**

06-021 Capital Improvement Grants

06-022 Community Grants

**Community Implications:** The validation of self-declared Community Associations as the voice representing a specific community may come with challenges from alternate groups. This could lead to Council having to decide which group has the right to speak on behalf of its taxpayers in a particular community.

**Financial Implications:** Minimum financial implications other than to add \$7,500 to the current community grants budget.

Respectfully submitted,

PETER TULUMELLO

for

ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

This report has been prepared in consultation with the following listed departments.

CONCURRENCES	
Division / Department	Name
Finance Division	K. Sinclair