
Winter City Community Grant 2018

Recommendation:

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

That the 2018 Winter City Grant Program be approved.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain City Council approval of the 2018 Winter City Grant Program as a pilot initiative under the Winter City Strategy.

Report Highlights

1. The \$25,000 Winter City Community Grant for 2017-2018 funding has leveraged a number of exciting initiatives.
2. A Community Working Group continues to work with the City to co-create the Winter City Strategy.
3. In reviewing the process associated with the first Winter City Community Grant, the Working Group has identified a number of areas where further enhancements could be tested through a pilot initiative.
4. Administration is recommending that applications to support projects proposed by organizations that are not registered non-profit, including private businesses, may be considered on a case-by-case basis where public and community good is clearly demonstrated.

Strategic Goals

This report supports multiple Strategic Goals, in particular:

- Quality of Life by providing opportunities for activities in a winter city;
- Sustainable Growth by ensuring our City Centre is vibrant in all seasons of the year;
- Moving Around by ensuring accessibility and connectivity continue to exist when snow and ice are present; and
- Economic Diversity and Prosperity by creating an environment for business sustainability through all seasons.

Background

The Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services, at its meeting held on November 6, 2017, received the Winter City Strategy Update report providing information about the status of the initiative as well as information about plans for the 2017-2018 winter season.

Report

2017-2018 Winter City Community Grant

As a result of a call for submissions issued in the Spring of 2017, \$25,000 has been allocated to support five (5) community initiatives that are achieving community 'quick wins' that advance learning or move core concepts of the Strategy forward. Supported initiatives include:

- January 18 – February 25, 2018 - Crokicurl located at Broadway Avenue & 12th Street (Broadway Business Improvement District);
- January 18 – 20, 2018 - Theatre on the Trail along the Meewasin Trail occurred in association with the Winterruption Festival (Sum Theatre Company);
- January 18 – 21, 2018 - Enhancements to the Winterruption Festival included a storytelling tipi and free hot beverages (a 'hot chocolate backpack') (Friends of the Broadway Theatre);
- February 3, 2018 - Wanuskewin Winter Festival will include Indigenous games, activities and trapping skills for the whole family (Wanuskewin Heritage Park); and
- Ice Cycle 2.0 includes a variety of winter cycling-related events throughout the winter (Flatlanders FatTire Brigade).

There were 20 applications. The funding was administered by the Recreation and Community Development division in alignment with other community granting processes. A Community Working Group, formed to guide the co-creation of the Strategy, has debriefed on the initial granting process. The following opportunities were noted for improvement:

- Enable innovation by allowing businesses to apply for funding where they have partnerships with the community;
- Take a more flexible approach to grant allocation, to allow micro-grants and larger grants (e.g. \$10,000 instead of current limit of \$5,000);
- Consider a more targeted approach that furthers specific Winter City goals; and
- Consider a matching grant as a lever to attract other funding for larger projects.

Based on the current policy governing community cash grants, Council Policy C03-018 - Assistance to Community Groups, eligibility is "limited to those community groups that are registered as a Non-Profit Corporation under the Non-Profit Corporations Act of Saskatchewan, under the Co-operative Act of Saskatchewan, or federally registered as a charity."

Under the policy, the Administration has the authority to establish the application format, minimum required documentation, and to set application deadlines. Minimum liability insurance values of \$2,000,000 and higher is an example of an Administrative documentation requirement that may act as an impediment to community creativity.

Additional Updates on the Strategy

In addition to the continuation of the Community Grant for the 2018-2019 winter season, the following ideas have progressed based on current operating programs, and the capital funding provided for 2018:

- Creatively designed warmup shelters – An agreement with The Forks to borrow two warming huts until March 1 has been signed.
- Washrooms available through the winter – Efforts to promote existing washrooms and to encourage increased activity in proximity to these locations (including the use of Civic Leisure Centres) are being made and future improvements to washrooms at strategic locations will be studied.
- Clear paths and sidewalks to support persons of all abilities – the Roadways and Operations division has initiated the Rapid Response Mobility Team to increase the level of service.

Options to the Recommendation

City Council may choose not to approve the 2018 Winter City Grant as outlined in which case further direction would be required.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

The pilot initiative to waive eligibility requirements will be managed jointly by the divisions of Environmental and Corporate Initiatives and Recreation and Community Development, under the guidance of the Winter City Community Working Group. Members of the Working Group include Brent Penner (DowntownYXE), Candace Skrapek (Age Friendly Saskatoon), Chris Standing (Wanuskewin Heritage Park), Eric Lefol (Federation des Francophones de Saskatoon), Gail Motsi (community member), Gina Dipaolo (University of Saskatchewan), Ian Shaw (Saskatoon Open Door Society), Kirby Wirchenko (Broadway Theatre), Lenore Swystun (Prairie Wild Consulting), Nowshad Ali (WinterShines/OnPurpose Events), Will Brooks (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan), and City of Saskatoon representatives from the divisions of Recreation and Community Development, Environmental and Corporate Initiatives, Facilities and Fleet Management, and Planning and Development.

Communication Plan

The Winter City Community Grant Program is promoted via email to a broad list of stakeholders who have signed on to participate in the Strategy, through the information-sharing mechanisms many of the stakeholders manage, and on the City of Saskatoon web-site.

Policy Implications

Council Policy C03-018 - Assistance to Community Groups stipulates that only registered not-for-profit organizations are eligible for cash grants in the areas of Social and Environmental grants. Though the policy does not require this stipulation of other grants, it should be noted that the principle of only granting to non-profit organizations is commonly upheld in other Recreation and Community Development grant programs. However, in the case of the Winter City Grant, the Administration recommends that

organizations that are not registered as not for profit, including private businesses, be considered for funding.

Financial Implications

\$50,000 will be allocated from the existing Capital Project #2519 – Community Winter City Strategy Development, to support the 2018-2019 Winter City Community Grant Program applications.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no environmental, Privacy or CPTED implications or considerations at this time.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

The Administration will prepare a report to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services summarizing the results of the pilot initiative and any proposed recommendations in January 2019. Any proposed recommendations to the policy would be made to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services following the review of Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Report Approval

Written by: Brenda Wallace, Director of Environmental and Corporate Initiatives
Reviewed by: Kevin Kitchen, Community Development Manager, Recreation and Community Development
Approved by: Dan Willems, Acting General Manager, Corporate Performance Department

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