

2022 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant – Environmental Category

ISSUE

The Environmental Grant assists community groups with environmental initiatives, as directed by Council Policy C03-018, Assistance to Community Groups. This annual administrative report requests approval of the recommendations for the 2022 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant – Environmental Category (Environmental Grant) and provides project summaries from 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services approve the funding allocations for the 2022 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grant – Environment Category.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on April 12, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services approved the 2021 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grants – Environmental Component report outlining the results of the 2020 funded projects and the funding recommendations for the 2021 competition.

Funding allocation for the Environmental Grant is directed by Council Policy C03-018. Funding for the Environmental Grants are approved by City Council during the business plan and budget process. In 2022, the approved and available funding is \$59,000.

A comprehensive review of the policy is currently being undertaken by the Leadership Team Governance Subcommittee.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Thirteen projects were provided funding in 2021 at a cost of \$54,000, resulting in a variety of positive environmental outcomes addressing aspects of climate change mitigation, solid waste diversion, green infrastructure management, and access to recreation and cultural facilities. Some of these projects were delayed due to COVID-19, with some projects requiring extensions. Refer to Appendix 1 - Summary of 2021 Funded Projects for the summary and status, including those that are still in-progress due to COVID-19.

The 2022 Environmental Grant applications were reviewed by a three-person committee composed of representatives from the Sustainability Department, the Transportation Department, and the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee. Submissions were evaluated using criteria guided by Council Policy C03-018.

Seventeen applications were received in 2022, with a combined request for funding of \$79,065. The total amount available through the 2022 Environmental Grant Program is \$59,000, and thirteen applicants are recommended to receive funding. The four

unfunded applications did meet eligibility criteria but were ranked lower during evaluation due to insufficient details on project plans or having a more limited community impact. Appendix 2 - Summary of 2022 Grant Applications summarizes the funding allocation for 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The allocation will utilize a culminative total of \$59,000 available from a combination of the 2022 Community Initiatives Program (\$10,000) and Environmental Awareness (\$4,000) operating budgets as well as capital funding from the following projects:

- P.02390 – Green Infrastructure (\$10,000)
- P.02197 – Water Conservation Initiative (\$15,000)
- P.10016 – Solid Waste Reduction & Diversion Plan Development + Plan Implementation (\$10,000)
- P.02468 – Active Transportation Plan Implementation (\$10,000)

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The projects recommended for allocation of the cash grant are in line with the criteria in the Policy and collectively meet the objectives of the program which are:

- Protection of the environment;
- Conservation of natural resources; and
- Environmental communications, research and education.

The projects chosen specifically support the categories prioritized for funding in 2022, including initiatives that increase awareness and protection of our water resources, reduce the amount of waste going to landfills, encourage active transportation, provide stewardship, education or enhancements to the green network, and provide learning opportunities that support the City of Saskatoon’s environmental goals. The overall impacts on greenhouse gas emissions and waste diversion resulting from these projects have not been quantified at this time.

There are no privacy or CPTED implications considerations.

NEXT STEPS

The results achieved through the 2022 Environmental Grant will be reported with the recommendations of award for the 2023 Environmental Grant, in the second quarter of 2023.

APPENDICES

1. Summary of 2021 Funded Projects
2. Summary of 2022 Grant Applications

Report Approval

Written by: Sarah Timmons, Environmental Coordinator

Reviewed by: Katie Burns, Manager, Community Leadership and Program Development
Jeanna South, Director of Sustainability

Approved by: Angela Gardiner, General Manager, Utilities and Environment