
Proposed Replacement of Sports Participation Grant and Amendments to Policy No. C03-003, Reserves for Future Expenditures

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the Sports Participation Grant be replaced by a Sport Projects Grant; and
2. That Policy No. C03-003, Reserves for Future Expenditures, be amended as outlined in this report.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the changing trends for grant supports to sport organizations and to request approval to replace the Sports Participation Grant with a Sport Projects Grant and change Policy No. C03-003, Reserves for Future Expenditures, to reflect the addition of the Sport Projects Grant.

Report Highlights

1. A review of the Sports Participation Grant was completed in 2017 to reflect on the current uses and changing needs in the area of supporting sport organizations and programs in Saskatoon.
2. To better meet the changing trends and needs of the community based sport organizations and sport activities, the Administration is recommending that the Sports Participation Grant be discontinued and replaced with a Sport Projects Grant.
3. The Administration is recommending changes to the applicable section within Policy No. C03-003, Reserves for Future Expenditures, to reflect the newly proposed purpose, source of funds, and application of funds for the Sport Projects Grant.

Strategic Goal

This report supports the City of Saskatoon's (City) Strategic Goal of Quality of Life by ensuring citizens have access to facilities and programs that provide active living and bring people together, and also by supporting community-building through direct investment, community development expertise, and support to volunteers on civic boards and committees.

This report also supports the Strategic Goal of a Culture of Continuous Improvement by conducting ongoing reviews and updates of community grant funding to ensure grant programs continue to reflect changing trends and community needs.

Background

City Council created the Sports Participation Grant Program in 1995 to replace the sports component of the Assistance to Community Groups Cash Grant Program. The purpose of the Sports Participation Grant Program was established to ensure quality coaching in all sports, to encourage people of all ages to participate in the sports activity of their choice, and to assist providers of sports programs to include people of all ages who could not otherwise afford to participate.

In 2009, a comprehensive review was undertaken to examine the gaps in sport funding provided by the City. Research was also done on funding for sport in other cities. City staff met to review current and future granting programs for sport, as well as the issues that could improve the effectiveness of current granting.

A granting process for the Jack Adilman Fund, a capital grant for sports organizations, was developed based on the funding review research and input from community stakeholders; the first intake for the Jack Adilman Fund occurred in 2011.

In 2012 an internal audit was conducted on the City's grant programs to ensure that adequate systems, practices, and controls were in place regarding the effective management of grants.

In 2013 the Sports Participation Grant was updated to include recommendations from the 2012 audit, as well as the recommendation from the 2009 Sports Grants Review to increase maximum grant funding in the Sports Participation Grant to \$10,000.

Report

Review of the Sports Participation Grant

In 2017, an internal committee of City staff conducted a comprehensive review of the Sports Participation Grant Program. The review took into account:

- a) sports grants available from the City of Saskatoon;
- b) sports Participation Grant funding history;
- c) grants available for sports activity in Saskatoon; and
- d) common practices around sport funding in other municipalities.

The City administers a variety of grant programs that fund sport activity. The Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant provides funding for sports, culture, and recreation projects; eligible sports projects and program priority groups in this grant are virtually identical to the participation, inclusion, and access goals of the Sports Participation Grant Program.

The City's Sports Participation Grant has an annual operating allocation of \$64,500 and receives an average of 25 applications per year, on an annual basis. Funds granted from this program are typically not fully used. Between 2007 and 2017, 17% of all funding awarded was not claimed. Underuse of funds is particularly prevalent in the Coaching component of the program with 26% of awarded funds not claimed in the

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Coaching: Holding a Course category, and 48% of awarded funds not claimed in the Coaching: Individual Registrations category.

Also related to grants and supports for sport organization activities, there are provincial grants that support activities such as: hosting, coaching (three different grants support this), access, learn-to programs, and individual member support.

Grants for sports activity in other municipalities include such things as support for hosting events, capital projects (new projects as well as renovations), innovation, travel, excellence, community initiatives, and programming costs. In the scope of this research, grants for coaching activity were not found in other municipalities.

Review Recommendation

The review recommended several options for the Sports Participation Grant. The Administration is recommending that the Sports Participation Grant be discontinued in its current framework and replaced with a Sport Projects Grant (see Attachment 1). The proposed Sport Projects Grant is based on the well-received One-Time Minor Capital Grant that was piloted in 2017. Organizations who previously applied to the Access and Explore component of the Sports Participation Grant will be encouraged to apply to the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant program.

Proposed Amendments to Policy No. C03-003, Reserves for Future Expenditures

The Administration is also recommending that the applicable section of Policy No. C03-003, Reserves for Future Expenditures, be updated to reflect the change from offering a Sports Participation Grant to offering a Sport Projects Grant (see Attachment 2).

Options to the Recommendation

City Council has the option to deny the recommendations of this report and direct the Administration to continue to offer the Sports Participation Grant. This option would impact the opportunities to effectively provide funding for the sports community.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

Public and/or stakeholder consultations are not required at this time. Stakeholder recommendations from the 2009 City Sports Grant Review, as well as the statistical review of the past 10 years of grant allocations, contributed to the development of the proposed changes.

Communication Plan

If the proposed changes are approved by City Council, a communication plan will be implemented to notify sports organizations and past Sports Participation Grant applicants.

Policy Implications

If City Council approves the recommendations of this report, the Sport Projects Grant will be put in place for the 2019 grant year, and Policy No. C03-003, Reserves for Future Expenditures will be amended, as outlined in Attachments 1 and 2 of this report.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no financial, environmental, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

Should City Council approve the recommendations in this report, the Sport Projects Grant will be made available and policy revisions will be completed.

Public Notice

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

Attachments

1. Sport Projects Grant Guidelines and Application Form
2. Proposed Amendments to Policy No. C03-003, Reserves for Future Expenditures

Report Approval

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Reviewed by: Lynne Lacroix, Director of Recreation and Community Development

Approved by: Randy Grauer, General Manager, Community Services Department

S/Reports/2018/RCD/PDCS – Replace Sports Participation Grant and Amend Reserves for Future Expenditures Policy/gS/df