Minute No. 471
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 26, 2019

Item No. 2 Community Centre Renovation Grant By-law and Program Update

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and adopted the following:

1. That the draft Community Centre Renovation Grant Program By-law, attached as Appendix A, which sets out new program parameters as described in this Report, be enacted.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks within 365 days with the status of projects funded through the Community Centre Renovation Grant Program.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 26, 2019

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 9, 2019, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks, as amended, and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 26, 2019, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Services with the following amendments:

- Add the following new Recommendation 2:

  "2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks within 365 days with the status of projects funded through the Community Centre Renovation Grant Program."

- Renumber the remaining recommendation accordingly.

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Community Centre Renovation Grant By-law and Program Update

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
P. de Graaf	C. Fernandes	P. Olafson, Interim CFO	M. Ruta, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Winnipeg's Community Centre Renovation Grant Program (CCRGP) supports repairs, upgrades, retrofits, safety improvements, and renovation projects to City of Winnipeg community centre facilities. Since the inception of the CCRGP in 2012, there have been 15 intake periods, 166 applications/successful awards, and $6,501,120.81 in CCRGP funding provided to community centres

Since 2012, the CCRGP was $965,000 per year. As part of the 2019 budget, Council approved an additional $1.035 million per year for the CCRGP for five years beginning in 2019, for total combined funding of $2.0 million per year.

This report proposes a Community Centre Renovation Grant Program By-law which features expanded eligibility criteria in concert with an increased maximum funding threshold per project of up to $100,000. The enactment of the proposed by-law will continue the CCRGP largely in the same form as it has operated in the past. However, the maximum grant will increase from $50,000 to $100,000 and eligibility criteria are being expanded to allow 50% funding for renovations of indoor arenas, ice plants, fieldhouses, and soccer complexes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council enact the draft Community Centre Renovation Grant Program By-law, attached as Appendix A, which sets out new program parameters as described in this Report.

2. That the Public Service be directed to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On March 20, 2019, in approving the 2019 budget, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

> *"Operating Budget Recommendations:*
>
> *H. i. That Council approve the annual transfer of $1.035 million from the Financial Stabilization Reserve to the Community Centre Renovation Grant Program starting in 2019 up to 2023; and*
>
> *ii. That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to report back to the appropriate committee of Council with a review and update of the Community Centre Renovation Grant Program including but not limited to an evaluation criteria and increased maximum funding threshold per project from $50,000 (inclusive of all applicable taxes) to $100,000 (inclusive of all applicable taxes)."*

The City of Winnipeg Charter section 219 provides that the City may only establish grant programs through a by-law. A by-law can only be enacted by Council.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The enactment of the proposed by-law will continue the CCRGP largely in the same form as it has operated in the past. However, the maximum grant will increase from $50,000 to $100,000 and eligibility criteria are being expanded to allow 50% funding for renovations of indoor arenas, ice plants, fieldhouses, and soccer complexes.

The 2019 Council approved budget increased the total annual value of the CCRGP from $965,000 to $2,000,000. There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations of the report.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The community centre volunteer model has been in place in Winnipeg since the 1950s, with the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres (GCWCC) being formed in 1971, formalizing the manner in which volunteers and City staff support community centre operations.

Currently there are 63 community centres in Winnipeg, each of which is owned by the City of Winnipeg, but operated by a volunteer Board of Directors. Community centres are organized into five districts that align with the City's five Community Committees.

The purpose of community centres is to provide a broad range of recreation and leisure activities through the management and operation of the community centre facility and grounds for persons of all ages that reside within the centre's designated boundary area. Significant volunteer support is required to offer the majority of community centre programming and operations. Community centres are essential in creating safer, stronger neighbourhoods and they play a central role in shaping Winnipeg's youth while bringing neighbours together.

Created in 2012, the CCRGP supports repairs, upgrades, retrofits, safety improvements and renovation projects to City of Winnipeg community centre facilities. In accordance with the 2012 Council-approved report, an Evaluation Committee comprised of representation from the Community Services Department, Planning, Property and Development Department, and the GCWCC was established and directed to define the program parameters, application process, intake period(s), and evaluation criteria. The CCRGP currently has two intake periods – a Spring intake, and a Fall intake. Information relative to CCRGP (awards, CCRGP Brochure and application form, etc.) is available on the City's website at: http://winnipeg.ca/cms/recreation/renovation_fund.stm

Since the inception of the CCRGP in 2012, community centres have been eligible for up to 100% project funding under the CCRGP to a maximum of $50,000 per project, with each community centre being eligible for one project per calendar year. However, improvements to community centre spaces that had ability to generate revenues (e.g. ice/fieldhouse/soccerplex playing surfaces/sheds and associated infrastructure) and leased spaces that were not funded by the Universal Funding Formula (UFF), have not been eligible for the CCRGP.

As a result of the 2019 Council approved increase to the overall CCRGP funding envelope to $2.0 million annually, this report proposes that effective for the Fall 2019 CCRGP intake:

- The parameters be amended to increase the maximum funding threshold from $50,000 per project to $100,000;
- The parameters of the grant be expanded to allow renovation projects for ice/fieldhouse/soccerplex playing surfaces/sheds and associated infrastructure that were previously ineligible. However, unlike other spaces that are eligible for 100% funding by the CCRGP, a renovation project for a revenue generating arena, fieldhouse or soccerplex and associated infrastructure would only qualify for 50% funding; the community centre would be required to contribute a minimum of 50% of the total project cost, inclusive of all applicable taxes;
- Renovations to UFF funded permanent outdoor hockey pens and associated infrastructure will also become eligible for CCRGP.

Eligibility for CCRGP grants is based on the following:

- Only community centres that are members of the GCWCC, are incorporated and in good standing with the Companies Office, and have applied for a grant by deadlines established by the Evaluation Committee are eligible to receive grants for renovation of community centre facilities under the CCRGP.
- A community centre is not eligible to receive more than one grant in a calendar year
- Projects involving renovations of existing community centre facilities are eligible for grants but projects to create new facilities, additions to existing facilities, or feasibility studies, are not.
- Projects that are likely to require more than 18 months to complete are not eligible for grants

It is proposed that CCRGP projects would be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee based on the following criteria (see attached draft By-law):

- the level of project planning that has taken place in respect of the project for which a grant is sought;
- the benefits offered by a project to the community centre and the community-at-large;
- the viability of the project, including the extent to which a project is being supported by other sources of funding and community centre contributions (e.g. confirmed funding from other sources, the adaptability of the project if grant funding is less than requested.); and
- the extent to which the applicant community centre has received CCRGP grants in previous years.

The By-law also provides that the Evaluation Committee will be able to approve grants directly rather than the Director approving them on the Committee's recommendation.

The CCRGP has enabled community centres to make small to medium improvements to their facilities, generally focusing on improving programming features and the customer experience (e.g., canteen renovations, washroom accessibility, skate flooring, hall flooring, etc.). However, as the renewal of most major infrastructure elements at community centres remain as a City of Winnipeg responsibility under the Universal Funding Formula Responsibilities document, community centres tend not to apply for CCRGP funds to address those elements that are the main risks under the City's Infrastructure Deficit, (which include HVAC, roofs, structural issues and building envelope). The proposed revisions to the CCRGP criteria will allow for some larger projects to be considered.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date: June 7, 2019

Project Name:

Community Centre Renovation Grant Bylaw and Program Update

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications to the City of Winnpeg as a result of the recommendations of the report. On March 20, 2019 Council adopted the 2019 Capital Budget and Five Year Forecast which includes authorization for a $2.0 million Community Centre Renovation Grant Program.

Original signed by:

Kelly Lemoine, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance and Administrative Services
Community Services Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services
- Planning, Property and Development Department
- General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres Inc.

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

01-3 PROSPERITY

Direction 1: Provide efficient and focused civic administration and governance

01-5 RECREATION

Direction 2: Work with community partners to provide services that are responsive to the community's recreation and leisure needs.

Direction 3: Directly provide, or facilitate through partnerships, equitable access to a base level of recreation, culture and leisure services for all Winnipeggers.

Direction 4: With community partners, participate as a leader in planning and delivering recreation and leisure services in Winnipeg.

Direction 5: Provide or facilitate community development and recreation opportunities for vulnerable youth.

Direction 6: Plan for sustainable and connected recreation and leisure infrastructure.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Community Services
Division: Community Development and Recreation Services
Prepared by: Peter de Graaf, Manager of Community Development and Recreation Services
Date: June 7, 2019
File No: CMS-2019-4

Attachments:

Appendix A –CCRGP Draft By-Law