Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – October 20, 2021

REPORTS

Item No. 7 River Trail 2021 Grant, Alternative Proposal

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the $36,000.00 grant provided to Festival du Voyageur – River trail program, as approved by Council as part of the Supplement to the 2021 Adopted Budget, be re-allocated to Festival du Voyageur – River Trail 2021 Grant Funding to assist with the costs of engineering consultant expenses related to repairing or replacing the existing, out-of-service dock and riverbank access point in Whittier Park.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Yea:	Bowman, Allard, Browaty, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins	7
Nay:		0

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: River Trail 2021 Grant, Alternative Proposal

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
J. Veitch	J. Kiernan	C. Kloepfer	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the 2021 City of Winnipeg Budget Update, Council approved a $36,000 grant to Festival du Voyageur Inc. (FDV) and the Forks Renewal Corporation (FRC) for the River Trail Program. However, because FDV programming for 2021 was largely cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, they have no expenses that fall under the scope of their grant application.

FDV has submitted an alternate grant proposal (attached) requesting that engineering consultant expenses related to repairing or replacing the existing, out-of-service dock and riverbank access point in Whittier Park be approved under the approved grant.

This change would not require approval of any additional budget amounts and would benefit the public and FDV's programming.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the $36,000.00 grant provided to Festival du Voyageur – River trail program, as approved by Council as part of the Supplement to the 2021 Adopted Budget, be re-allocated to Festival du Voyageur – River Trail 2021 Grant Funding to assist with the costs of engineering consultant expenses related to repairing or replacing the existing, out-of-service dock and riverbank access point in Whittier Park.

2. That the proper officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

All operating grants, or amendments thereto, require Council approval.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no budget, policy or human resource implications associated with this recommendation.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Festival du Voyageur (FDV) has regularly applied for, and received funding through, the River Trail Grant Program for over 10 years. Typically, this funding has supported the construction and maintenance of the River Trail and programming associated with the River Trail. Since 2015, Festival du Voyageur and The Forks Renewal Corporation have been co-applicants reflecting the shared responsibilities and collaboration for construction, maintenance and programming.

Due to Covid-19 and the various restrictions on group gatherings and events, FDV cancelled their main in-person programming (i.e., the “Festival”) in both 2020 and 2021. As such, they have accrued no eligible expenses. In 2020, no grant funds were paid out to the applicants, as no eligible expenses were submitted. Similarly, FDV has indicated that they will have no eligible expenses in 2021 within the scope of the approved Grant Application, and they have confirmed that the Forks Renewal Corporation has been able to cover all their expenses related to the construction and maintenance of the River Trail through other sources.

FDV has approached the City about using the existing dock structure at Whittier Park (situated just north of the Fort Gibraltar replica) as it could provide convenient summer and winter access to the river. A functioning river access point would provide an additional gateway to their site, and a launching point for summer and winter activities on the river. However, as seen in Figure 1, the dock is presently in a state of disrepair and is considered unsafe in its current condition.



Figure 1. The River access in its current state.

The Public Works Department's Parks and Open Space Division has no plans or allocated budget for repairing or replacing the dock. The Parks and Open Space Division is supportive of FDV's initiative to repair and refurbish the dock as it would be a benefit to the Park and the citizens who use it throughout the year.

The alternative Grant Application for 2021 would help in covering the costs of the engineering assessments and design that would be required. The alternative Grant Application is considered to be consistent with the mandate of the River Trail Grant Program as it provides funding to FDV and supports their programming, and will enhance the public's access to the Red River/Whittier Park in both summer and winter.

Funding FDV's initiative is considered to bring good value to the City as it will help address damage to a piece of City infrastructure, in addition to providing an enhanced opportunity for FDV and residents.

As the Grant was approved in the City of Winnipeg's 2021 Budget Update, approval of the alternative Grant Proposal will not require the approval of any additional funding in 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: August 26, 2021

Project Name:

First Year of Program 2021

River Trail 2021 Grant, Alternative Proposal

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 36,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 36,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	36,000	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Direct costs represent the repurposed grant to the Festival du Voyageur.

Mike McGinn Aug. 26, 2021

Mike McGinn, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Public Works Department – Parks and Open Spaces Division

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Section 02-2 – Environment
- Promote the use of rivers and riverbanks
- Recognize and preserve Winnipeg's parks, green spaces and riverbanks as green oases in our urban setting

Section 01-1b – Key Directions for Building a City that Works
- Focus future efforts for acquisition, design, development, operation, use and promotion of our parks, places and open spaces within the context of Complete Communities

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Planning, Property and Development
Division: Urban Planning and Design
Prepared by: Kendall Thiessen, Riverbank Management Engineer
Date: September 8, 2021
File No: N/A

Attachments: