

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: March 11, 2024
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Candice Gartry, Director, Financial Services
SUBJECT: Grants-in-Aid Policy Review

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the March 11, 2024, corporate report from the Director of Financial Services, titled “Grants-in-Aid Policy Review” and endorse and approve the updates to Finance Policy # 302, Grants-in-Aid (Appendix A).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After the 2023 Grants-in-Aid were awarded, staff were requested to review the Grants-in-Aid Policy (Policy). The report outlines suggested changes to the Policy.

In 2023, the total budget for the Grants-in-Aid was reduced by 50% (to \$25K) but the number of requests remains high. For example, this year the City received 25 applications for the General Grants-in-Aid with a total of \$49,000 requested, but the budget available under the current policy is only \$15,000. Additionally, in past years the supplementary funding for arts or culture events has not been fully allocated (\$10K budget). It has been suggested that the two streams be merged and that the limit for the allocation of grant funding be reduced to \$1K from \$2K for all applications so that the available funding can be made available to more groups. The proposed Policy, attached as Appendix A, has been updated to reflect these suggested changes.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

After the 2023 Grants-in-Aid were awarded, staff were requested to review the Policy. The budget for the Grants-in-Aid was reduced in 2023 to \$25K from \$50K, but the number and amount of grant applications received remains high. For example, this year the City received 25 applications for the General Grants-in-Aid with a total of \$49,000 requested, but the budget available under the current policy is only \$15,000. Additionally in past years the supplementary funding for arts or culture events has not been fully allocated (\$10K budget).

It has been suggested that the two streams be merged and that the limit for the allocation of grant funding be reduced to \$1K from \$2K for all applications so that the available funding can be made available to more groups.

If the maximum grant award is reduced to \$1K for 2024, and if, hypothetically, all the applicants were to receive the maximum \$1K (Note: the applications received for 2024 have not yet been

assessed), the total allocated would still exceed the \$25K budget (requests @ \$1K each would total \$28.5K). However, with this change, the grant award amount, based on the number of applications received, would be much more in-line with the available budget. Lowering the maximum grant to \$1K would set better expectations for organizations with respect to the Grant-in-Aid award amount that they may receive.

The draft Policy has been updated to reflect these suggested changes and is attached as Appendix A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As there would be no change to the total Grants-in-Aid budget, only a change to the grant amount awarded, there are no financial implication for the City.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

If policy changes are adopted, staff will update the City's website with the changes and, when issuing letters to applicants, staff will include wording to explain the changes in the Policy.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

The Recreation and Culture department assisted Finance in reviewing the arts and culture application and are aware of the suggested Policy changes.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following alternate options are available for Council's consideration:

1. Not endorse updating Finance Policy #302, Grants-in-Aid as proposed, which would likely result in less community groups receiving Grant-in-Aid funding;
2. Suggest amendments to the revised Finance policy #302, Grants-in-Aid as proposed.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend that Council receive for information the March 11, 2024, corporate report from the Director of Financial Services, titled "Grants-in-Aid Policy Review" and endorse and approve the amended draft Finance Policy # 302, Grants-in-Aid (Appendix A).

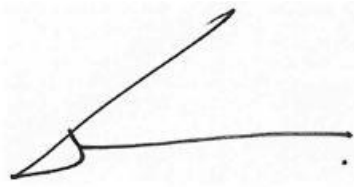
Respectfully submitted,



Candice Gartry, CPA, CGA
Director, Financial Services

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

I concur with the recommendations of this corporate report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line and a small dot at the end.

Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: Finance policy # 302, Grants-in-Aid – Clean Version
Appendix B: Finance policy # 302, Grants-in-Aid – Redline Version