



Meeting Date: April 5, 2023

Submitted by: Heather Kepran, Communications Specialist;
Tiffany Farrell, Director of Corporate Services

Report No: CPS-23-2023

Subject: Additional Funding Request under Council Grants 2023

Recommendation:

THAT in accordance with the Council Grants Policy, the request from the Poplar Hill and District Lions Club for the Trees Middlesex program be approved in the amount of \$1,000;

AND THAT staff be directed to prepare correspondence and/or issue payment to the above noted organization.

Purpose:

To make a recommendation to Council regarding the request for a grant for financial assistance to a group within Middlesex Centre.

Background:

At the January 25, 2023 council meeting, Council approved a number of grants under the Council Grants Program (report CPS-05-2023). This program provides municipal funds or other forms of assistance, in limited amounts, to community groups and organizations that warrant municipal support. Applications are typically accepted once a year, closing on November 30th.

For 2023, Council approved grants totalling \$15,700, leaving \$4,300 of the \$20,000 annual budget unspent.

On March 20, 2023, the Poplar Hill and District Lions Club (“Poplar Hill Lions” or “the Lions”) submitted a late application, seeking funds in the amount of \$1,000 for the Trees Middlesex program in 2023.

Analysis:

Until recently, Trees Middlesex Centre was operated as an independent organization with a mission to provide roadside trees to residents to enhance the local environment. In 2021, the Trees Middlesex program was taken over by the Poplar Hill Lions, continuing the work of the original organization. The project involves the Lions obtaining native trees in bulk and providing information on planting and nurturing trees. Local residents can purchase the trees at a significantly reduced rate. Since taking over the program, the Lions report having sold almost 700 trees.

Trees Middlesex Centre applied for and received funding under the Council Grants program throughout its independent existence. The Poplar Hill Lions are now seeking the same funding, \$1,000, to assist them in delivering the program. The program and the organization meet the requirements for the grants.

Staff support this request and given that funding is still available in the budget, recommend the Poplar Hill Lions be added to the list of grant recipients for 2023. Staff will direct the Lions to apply through the normal process for future Council Grant applications.

Financial Implications:

Funding for the Council Grants Program was approved as part of the 2023 municipal budget.

Table: Financial Implications - Council Grants

Item	Value
Council Grants Awarded, January 2023	\$14,550
Council Grants Recommended (Poplar Hill Lions), April 2023	\$1,000
Ilderton Agricultural Society Grant (yearly as part of lease agreement)	\$1,000
Grants to high schools for graduating students	\$150
Total Grants	\$16,700
Budget	\$20,000
Remaining for 2023	\$3,300

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Engaged Community

The Council Grant Program supports several objectives and initiatives under the strategic priority of Engaged Community, most notably:

- Objective 1.1 - Support community organizations and opportunities for volunteer involvement in the community
- Objective 1.3 - Celebrate our rural and agricultural heritage

Attachments:

None.