



Meeting Date: January 6, 2021

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

Report No: CPS-01-2021

Subject: Council Grants Report

Recommendation:

THAT the request from Ethan's Garden be approved in the amount of \$2,000 in accordance with the Council Grants Policy;

AND THAT the request from the Komoka Railway Museum be approved in the amount of \$5,000 in accordance with the Council Grants Policy;

AND THAT the request from the London & Middlesex Heritage Museum (Fanshawe Pioneer Village) be approved in the amount of \$2,500 in accordance with the Council Grants Policy;

AND THAT the request from the Middlesex Centre Archives be approved in the amount of \$5,000 in accordance with the Council Grants Policy;

AND THAT the request from the Optimist Club of Ilderton be approved in the amount of \$600 in accordance with the Council Grants Policy;

AND FURTHER THAT that staff be directed to prepare correspondence and issue payment to the above noted organizations.

Purpose:

To make recommendation to Council regarding the requests for grants for financial assistance to groups within Middlesex Centre.

Background:

The purpose of this program is to provide municipal funds or other forms of assistance, in limited amounts, to community groups and organizations that warrant municipal support. This program exists to recognize the value of these groups to the well-being and growth of the community and in helping the municipality to retain a strong community focus.

The application is available online all year round and closes November 30th of each year. After the budget is passed, a committee consisting of the Director of Corporate Services, the Director of Community Services and the Communications Specialist meets to discuss and evaluate the applications.

Analysis:

The following is used for evaluating the applications:

1. Ensure the grant falls into one of the six specified categories.
 - a. Tourism/Economic Development
 - b. Community
 - c. The Arts
 - d. Cultural and Heritage
 - e. Environmental Awareness
 - f. Other
2. A maximum of \$20,000 will be included in the budget each year.
3. A maximum of \$5,000 per organization has been established for financial contributions.
4. A maximum of \$2,000 per organization has been established for in-kind services.

The Municipality received five (5) applications totalling \$17,500* for 2021. Four (4) of the applicants received funding in 2020, and all of these groups submitted final reports related to their 2020 grants. The summary of the application requests is presented in the table which follows.

The number of organizations seeking grants this year is considerably lower than in past years as those organizations who received funds in 2020, but were unable to use them due to COVID-19 were permitted to carry-over the funds to 2021. Seven (7) organizations are carrying forward a total of \$10,200 in funding. These organizations were not eligible to apply for additional grants in this funding round.

Also included in the Council Grants are \$150 for local high school scholarships and \$1,000 for the Ilderton Agricultural Society Grant, as part of their lease agreement.

All recipients of the council grants program are to submit a written report on how the money was spent and results of the event/project.

***A note on in-kind requests and contributions:** In-kind requests put forward as part of the grant application process, if approved, are handled a variety of ways, depending on the nature of the program.

1. Council Grants: In this case, the value of the in-kind is charged to the Council Grants program, and funds are transferred from the Council Grants program to the applicable municipal budget line.

2. Community Services Fee Waiver Program: In this case, the value of the in-kind is charged to the Community Services as part of their fee waiver program. The value of these waivers is not reflected in the Council Grants program allocations, but the details are noted below.
3. Agreement: In some cases, there is a formal agreement on the use of a facility or property. The value of these agreements is not reflected in the Council Grants program allocations, but the details are noted below.

Table: Council Grant Requests and Recommendations

Organization	Project	Grant Request	Grant Recommendation	In-Kind Contributions	Comments	Previous Grants
Ethan's Garden	Ethan's Garden - Memorial Native Garden Project	\$2,000	\$2,000	In-kind space offered through informal agreement – Ethan's Garden is located at Komoka Park.	Funds will be used to maintain and enhance a native species garden at Komoka Park, including the purchase of educational signage. The garden was started in 2020. Staff are supportive of this request. One concern is the structure of the organization (board of directors, business incorporation, etc.). As such, staff will direct Ethan's Garden to use some of the funding received to cover the cost of registration/incorporation, if required. Note - this step will support Ethan's Garden should they wish to seek grants from other funding agencies.	n/a
Komoka Railway Museum	Site & Building Maintenance	\$5,000	\$5,000	In-kind space offered through formal agreement between the Railway Museum and the Municipality.	Funds will be used to improve decking and walkways around the Railway Museum building. New decking will meet accessibility standards. This request is consistent with previous years grants awarded. There are no staff major concerns with this request, however staff will direct the Museum to work with Building Services (including obtaining permits as required) to ensure that new decking meets OBC and accessibility standards.	2020: \$2,000 2019: \$2,000 2018: \$1,000

Organization	Project	Grant Request	Grant Recommendation	In-Kind Contributions	Comments	Previous Grants
London & Middlesex Heritage Museum (Fanshawe Pioneer Village)	Heritage Farming Program	\$3,500	\$2,500		<p>Funds will be used to support the Heritage Farm Program at Fanshawe Pioneer Village.</p> <p>The municipality has funded this program for a number of years as it shares the farming history of our area. Several historical objects and buildings from Middlesex Centre are housed on-site.</p> <p>Staff are conflicted about funding for the Museum. On one hand, the request fails to meet the intention of the Council Grants in that the site is located outside of Middlesex Centre, and funds are being used to cover day-to-day expenses under the program (both of which are ineligible under the Council Grant policy). On the other hand, the Museum offers Middlesex Centre residents/school children a unique agricultural heritage experience.</p> <p>As such, staff are recommended reduced funding for 2021.</p>	<p>2020: \$2,500</p> <p>2019: \$5,000</p> <p>2018: \$5,000</p>
Middlesex Centre Archives	Middlesex Centre Archives	\$6,400	\$5,000	The Municipality is in a lease agreement with the Archives under bylaw 2018-048 dated May 23, 2018 for 3 years at a cost of \$0 for the rented space (495sq.ft.) at the Delaware Community Centre	<p>Funding would support MCA in their purchase of high-density storage shelving to allow them to accommodate additional materials.</p> <p>The amount requested was to cover the entire shelving purchase, however the Council Grant policy has a limit of \$5,000 per year.</p> <p>There are no staff concerns with this request.</p>	<p>2020: \$2,250</p> <p>2019: \$1,500</p>

Organization	Project	Grant Request	Grant Recommendation	In-Kind Contributions	Comments	Previous Grants
Optimist Club of Ilderton	Canada Flags	\$600	\$600		<p>Funds will be used to replace flags that are along the main roads in Ilderton around Canada Day.</p> <p>This request is consistent with previous grants awarded.</p> <p>There are no staff concerns with this request.</p>	<p>2020: \$480</p> <p>2019: \$480</p> <p>2018: \$450</p>

Financial Implications:

Item	Value
Council Grants Application Requests (including in-kind where value was assigned under Council Grants Program)	\$17,500
Council Grants Recommended	\$15,100
Ilderton Agricultural Society Grant (yearly as part of lease agreement)	\$1,000
Grants to high schools for graduating students	\$150
Total Grants Recommended	\$16,250
Budget	\$20,000
Remaining for 2021	\$3,750

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- 4b. Community & Neighbourhood Preservation: Promoting a sense of community engagement, pride, and belonging.
- 3a. Quality of Life: Building recreational opportunities.

Attachments:

A1 Council Grant Applications for 2021