



Memo

To: Angila Bains, Director of Legislative and Protective Services/Corporate Officer
From: Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk
Date: November 1, 2024
Subject: Community Association Operating Grants Funding Request Increase

At the October 28, 2024, Finance and Governance Standing Committee meeting, the committee discussed a request to increase the Community Association Operating Grant. This discussion resulted in the following motion:

"That the Finance and Governance Standing Committee recommend that Council increase the allocation for the Community Association Operating Grant by 10% and that the grant be reviewed every two years for cost of living increases"

CARRIED

An excerpt of the October 28, 2024 draft minutes, relevant attachments, and memo from the Director of Finance dated October 18, 2024 are attached for information.

Colton Whittaker

Colton Whittaker
Committee Clerk

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OPERATING GRANTS FUNDING REQUEST INCREASE

Grants have not increased since 2012, and a proposed 33% increase was discussed. However, only one Association has requested this amount, raising questions about the need for such a substantial adjustment. While the 33% figure aims to account for inflation since 2012, the committee considered this excessive, especially given that some Associations have large memberships while others do not. Instead, a 10% increase was deemed reasonable, as it factors in the insurance component already covered.

The discussion raised broader questions about the role and criteria for funding Community Associations. Committee members agreed on the importance of ensuring that Associations are representative of the communities they serve. This topic could be explored further in a future meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Harper and Seconded by Councillor Phelps Bondaroff: "That the Finance and Governance Standing Committee recommend that Council increase the allocation for the Community Association Operating Grant by 10% and that the grant be reviewed every two years for cost of living increases."

The following discussion ensued:

The committee agreed that the proposed grant increase was fair and emphasized the importance of implementing a review every two years to account for cost of living adjustments.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

Memo

To: Finance and Governance Standing Committee
From: Paul Arslan, Director of Finance
Date: October 18, 2024
Subject: **Community Association Operating Grants Funding Request Increase**

RECOMMENDATION

Amend Council's Policy for Saanich Community Grants Program to increase the Community Association Operating Grant to \$1,500 for associations representing a population of less than 10,000 and to \$2,200 for association representing a population greater than 10,000.

PURPOSE

To consider Falaise Community Association's funding request increase to their District's operating grant of \$1,100. This grant is used by the Community Association to assist them in defraying the annual administrative costs of operations to facilitate communications to residents (e.g. newsletter, website), and to organize all-inclusive community events. Given that operating grant funding for community association are based on Council's Policy, the increase will need to be considered for all community associations in the District that are recognized by Council.

BACKGROUND

The District's Community Grants Program Policy allows for approved community associations to receive operating grants depending on the population area that they serve as follows:

- *Eligible community associations that represent a population area of less than 10,000 may receive an annual operating grant of up to \$1,100 based on expenditures.*
- *Eligible community associations that represent a population area of more than 10,000 may receive an annual operating grant of up to \$1,650 based on expenditures.*

In addition, community associations may receive an annual liability insurance grant of up to \$850 per year based on expenditure. While the liability insurance grant was increased in 2021 to reflect the increasing costs of insurance, the operating grant has not been increased since 2011.

DISCUSSION

Appendix A lists all the Community Associations and their current financial information except for the three associations (highlighted in yellow) who have not submitted any financial information as they have not yet requested their operating grant for 2024.

As indicated in the second to last column half of the associations show net deficits for year ending 2023. Two of the Associations, Broadmead and Gorge, have large bank balances that can easily offset their annual deficits, while others such as Carey and Falaise have minimal savings to offset their deficits. Falaise Community Association states that their operating deficits are due to high inflationary costs of their goods and services costs which have risen over the years. BC Stats is reporting cumulative inflation (CPI) increase to be around 29% since 2011. The concern would be that community associations may need to curtail or eliminate future neighbourhood events to avoid these deficits. Falaise Community Association is therefore requesting an increase to the operating grant to cover the cumulative inflationary increase to their costs.

Option 1: Increase the allocation by around 33%.

This option would allow community associations representing a population area of less than 10,000 to receive an annual operating grant of up to \$1,500 while associations representing a population are of more than 10,000 can receive up to \$2,200. Community Associations must still prove their actual expenditure for the prior year exceeded the grant amount in order for them to receive the maximum grant allowed.

Providing cumulative CPI increase would increase the total operating grant contribution to community associations by \$6,600, up from \$18,700 to \$25,300. This equates to 0.003% tax increase. This is the option recommended by staff.

Option 2: Keep the grant as is.

The expectation would be for the community associations to live within their means (ie. reduce costs) or consider revenue generation options, such as increased advertising revenue, to help offset increasing administrative and event costs.

Appendix A

Organization Name	Approved	2024	2023						
	Grant Limits	Approved Grant	2024 Insurance	2023 Revenue (memberships)	Revenue (Other)	Total Revenues	Total 2023 Expenses	Net Deficit / (Surplus)	Cash & Investments
Blenkinsop Valley Community Association	1,100	1,100	742	160		2,002	2,093	91	3,420
Broadmead Area Residents Association	1,100	1,100	850	3,425	14,058	19,433	19,955	522	58,892
Cadboro Bay Residents Association	1,100								
Camosun Community Association	1,100	1,100	-	110	130	1,340	1,459	119	272
Carey Area Residents Association	1,650	1,650	800	-	171	2,621	3,210	589	1,453
Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs	1,100	1,100	850	3,990	12,522	18,462	15,133	(3,329)	29,652
Falaise Community Association	1,100	1,100	850	2,160	602	4,712	5,427	714	4,990
Gordon Head Residents' Association	1,650	1,650	850	1,021	490	4,011	3,328	(684)	6,112
Gorge Tillicum Community Association	1,650	1,650	742	1,225	40,494	44,111	50,049	5,938	80,001
Mount Tolmie Community Association	1,100	1,100	850	490	2,814	5,254	3,081	(2,173)	6,166
Mount View Colquitz Community Association	1,100	526	850	115	-	1,491	1,376	(115)	2,351
North Quadra Community Association	1,100	1,022	825	-	694	2,541	1,847	(694)	3,246
Prospect Lake District Community Association	1,100								
Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association	1,650								
Royal Oak Community Association	1,100	1,100	850	1,055	1,390	4,395	4,406.12	11	10,973



Falaise Community Association

Growing a stronger community together

September 9, 2024

To: Saanich Council

Re: Community Service Provider Grant

I have served with the Falaise Community Association (FCA) in various roles since 2018 and am currently the president.

Our main sources of income are membership fees, which amount to about \$2,200, and the Saanich Community Service Provider grant of \$1,100.

Most of our expenditures are towards two community events, a Family Day celebration in February and a summer picnic in September. We have additional smaller expenses, such as website hosting and maintenance and other miscellaneous items. At the moment, the office of our local MLA is printing our newsletter for free but when we have had to use a commercial printer, the fee is substantial.

Each year we apply for, and have been awarded, the Saanich Grant. Based on a review of our records, we have found that the grant has remained unchanged at \$1,100 since 2012. In 2020, we increased our membership from \$5 to \$10 per member in order to mitigate a steady decline in our cash balance.

The FCA Board of Directors requests that Saanich considers an increase in the value of Community Service Provider to account for the 33% inflation since the grant was last adjusted.

Sincerely,

Stuart Macpherson

president@falaise.ca

cc: Director of Finance