



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

2007 Community Partnership and Investment Program Parks, Forestry and Recreation Appeals Allocation

Date:	May 22, 2007
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	All Wards
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report recommends allocation of the \$16,128 appeals funds for the 2007 Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP). The CPIP funds two programs: The Recreation Partnership and Investment Program (generally known as Majors), which has \$10,508 for appeals; and the Minor Recreation Investment Program (generally known as Minors), which has \$5,620 for appeals. Funding for Lawn Bowling Clubs is included under Minors.

Fourteen organizations are recommended for appeals allocations: Majors -1; Minors -13. Appeals were heard on May 15, 2007 at the Community Partnership and Investment Appeals Sub-Committee meeting at City Hall (see Comment section). The review of the organizations' applications was carried out in accordance with the City of Toronto Grants Policy.

The 2007 Council Approved budget allocation for the CPIP is \$1,377,370. This includes \$1,007,495 for Majors and \$369,875 for Minors, including a technical adjustment of \$12,000 from the Community Services Partnership Program during the 2006 allocations cycle. The Majors received an increase of \$60,000; the Minors remained at the 2006 budget level. (See April 30, 2007 report "2007 Community Partnership and Investment Program Parks, Forestry and Recreation Allocations Recommendations" for details.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. the Community Development and Recreation Committee approves the total appeals allocations of \$16,128 for the 2007 Community Partnership Investment Program;
2. \$10,508 to be allocated to Central Eglinton Community Centre, as per Attachment 1;
3. \$5,620 to the organizations, as per Attachment 2;
4. the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact beyond what has been approved in the 2007 Approved Operating Budget.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agree with the financial impact information.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Community Partnership Investment Program (CPIP) provides grants to community organizations which reinforce the Division's service priorities: environmental stewardship, child and youth development, and lifelong active living. Balancing the growing requests for funding from organizations of emerging communities with historically funded organizations continues to be a challenge.

The number of organizations appealing their CPIP recommended allocations appears to be a result of this ongoing challenge. The demand for funding will continue to grow because of a more complex social environment, diverse communities, and a public more aware of available resources in the City. These facts confirm the need for Parks, Forestry and Recreation to ensure that organizations receiving grants truly support the Division's service priorities in the areas of program quality and variety, and service gaps. This will create effective community development at the neighbourhood level. Children and youth, in particular, will be exposed to a wide-range of sports, leisure and social experiences from all communities. This will help foster civic pride in residents, and encourage community engagement.

The Review of the City of Toronto Grants Policy in 2007 by the CPIP Coordinating Committee will further assist Parks, Forestry and Recreation to enhance its service priorities.

COMMENTS

The Community Partnership Investment Program (CPIP) reviewing team are staff of the Community Engagement unit. The unit is part of the Divisional Co-ordination and Community Engagement Branch (DCCE) in Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

Applications Re-evaluated

Of the 15 organizations scheduled to present appeals to the Appeals Sub-Committee, 1 was due to submitting a late application; 1 organization did not appear. Representatives of fourteen organizations addressed the Appeals Sub-Committee in person and/or filed written submissions which were used to re-evaluate their recommended allocations (see Attachments 3 and 4).

Location of Agencies Funded by CPIP

The recommended grants recipients of both the Majors and Minors grants are fairly distributed across the City. The agencies recommended for allocations under the Majors are in three priority neighbourhoods in the Scarborough District: Malvern, Kingston-Galloway, and Scarborough Village. The other recommended agencies for allocations under the Majors are in South District. There is one priority neighbourhood, Crescent Town, in the South. Within the past few years, Parks, Forestry and Recreation has been addressing the need to provide support for agencies across all districts of the City of Toronto. There were no new 2007 applicants for Majors.

The agencies recommended for funding under the Minors are located in priority neighbourhoods: West District: Jamestown and Weston-Mt. Dennis; North District: Flemingdon Park-Victoria Village, Jane-Finch; South District: Crescent Town.

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SIGNATURE

Brenda Librecz
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Summary of Appeals Recommendations - Major Recreation Partnership Program

Attachment 2 - Summary of Appeals Recommendations - Minor Recreation Investment Program

Attachment 3 – Description of Appeals Recommendations – Major Recreation Partnership Program

Attachment 4 – Description of Appeals Recommendations – Minor Recreation Investment Program

Attachment 1- Summary of 2007 Appeals Recommendations – Major Recreation Partnership Program

Organization	2007 Original Recommendation	2007 Appeal Recommendation	2007 Total Recommendation
Central Eglinton Community Centre	\$18,500	\$10,508	\$29,008
Total Appeals		\$10,508	

Attachment 2 – Summary of 2007 Appeals Recommendations – Minor Recreation Investment Program

Organization	2007 Original Recommendation	2007 Appeal Recommendation	2007 Total Recommendation
Abyssinia Youth Soccer Club	\$2,000	\$0.00	\$2,000
Cecil Community Centre	\$8,000	\$1,250	\$9,250
Gray Tigers Senior Citizens Club	\$0.00	\$750	\$750
High Park Initiatives	\$3,500	\$250	\$3,750
Moore Park Lawn Bowling Club	\$1,800	\$700	\$2,500
New Canadian Community Centre	\$0.00	\$500	\$500
Nigeria Eagles of Toronto	\$2,500	\$0.00	\$2,500
Philadelphia Patriots Pathfinder Club	\$2,000	\$250	\$2,250
Toronto Community and Culture Centre	\$1,250	\$500	\$1,750
Victoria Park Cricket Club	\$3,000	\$500	\$3,500
York Gymnastic Club	\$6,500	\$420	\$6,920
York Swim Club	\$0.00	\$500	\$500
Total Appeals		\$5620	

Attachment 3 - Description of 2007 Appeals Recommendations - Major Recreation Partnership Program

1. Central Eglinton Community Centre

The original recommended allocation was \$18,500 for the three programs described below:

Summer-in-the-Park: A program for parents and children up to age 5, which runs four mornings per week through July-August, at the Davisville Park Playground. The program includes arts and crafts, stories, music, games and snacks.

Camp Pal-O-Mine: A summer day camp program for children ages 4 to 12. The program includes sports, crafts, games, music, dance, science and nature, swimming and outings around the City.

Older Adult Program: It provides social, recreational, educational, and leisure programs for older adults, ages 50 and up. The program includes tai chi, yoga, social groups and outings around the City.

New Proposed Program

Pal-O-Mine Club: An after-school program for children ages 9-12, will offer activities in a “club” like format which will allow children the opportunity to share ideas and interests and develop a sense of community amongst the children. The program includes drama, cooking, writing, art, martial arts, music etc.

The organization provided a written appeal to the Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP) Appeals Sub-Committee stating that a new proposed program for children ages 9-12 is needed to provide a safe, stimulating after school program for this susceptible age group.

An additional allocation of \$10,508 for the Pal-O-Mine Club is recommended, for a total of \$29,008.

Attachment 4 - Description of 2007 Appeals Recommendations – Minor Recreation Investment Program

1. Abyssinia Youth Soccer Program

The original recommended allocation was \$2,000.

A 2007 grant will be used to hire a soccer head coach and a basketball head coach to facilitate training and tournaments. Soccer is played at Byng Park (Scarborough) in summer; and basketball at a gymnasium in winter. The organization works with children and youth from high needs areas. The organization has 8.4 months of unrestricted reserves.

A representative of the organization addressed the Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP) Appeals Sub-Committee and filed a written submission.

The soccer and basketball program attracts children and youth from across Toronto. Oakridge Community Centre (a priority centre) does not offer soccer programs.

An additional allocation of \$0.00 is recommended, for a total allocation of \$2,000.

2. Cecil Community Centre

The original recommended allocation was \$8,000.

The Cecil Youth Program offers Youth Drop-in activities 4 afternoons per week for ages 13-19. The activities focus on life skills, such as decision-making, negotiation and problem solving. The program provides youth with a range of information, e.g. community awareness, drug abuse, sexuality, employment, and youth-serving agencies. The 2007 grant will cover the Youth Worker position (salary and benefits for 15 hours per week for 52 weeks). The organization has a 14% increase in program participation.

A representative of the organization addressed the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee, and filed a written submission. Cecil Community Centre would like to extend the Friday Night program. The centre also services youth from the Alexandra Park and Grange Park communities.

An additional allocation of \$1,250 is recommended, for a total allocation of \$9,250.

3. Gray Tigers Senior Citizens Club

The original recommended allocation was \$0.00.

A 2007 grant will provide social and leisure activities to South Asian senior citizens. Activities include indoor and outdoor sports, folk songs and dances and cross cultural experiences. Seminars, symposiums and panel discussions are held to deal with prevention of elder abuse and senior's rights. The organization focuses on advocacy issues for seniors. The organization's office is located at Wallace Emerson Community Centre. The 2007 grants application was incomplete. Repeated attempts by both the community centre and grants review staff to contact the group were unsuccessful.

A representative of the organization addressed the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee, and filed additional information regarding the 2006 financial records.

An additional allocation of \$750 is recommended, for a total allocation of \$750.

4. High Park Initiatives

The original recommended allocation was \$3,500.

A 2007 grant will assist with the salary costs for one of the High Park Nature Centre's "Nature Interpreter" positions. The position is full-time for 23-weeks, and covers both spring and summer programs. The programs include: The Spring Planting program for schools and Girl Guides, the Saturday Morning Club and Tuesday Afternoon Club; summer nature programs for day cares and community centres, 3 weeks of "Nature Nuts" summer camps for 6-10 year olds, and 3 weeks of "Knee-High Naturalist" parent and child summer camp.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) provides in-kind of \$2,000 for plant materials for the programs noted above. As well, PFR provides similar programming within High Park: Eco-Camp, and High Park Children's Garden, which is part of the Community Gardens Programs.

Two representatives of the organization addressed the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee, reiterating the need for additional funds to support the "Nature Interpreter" position and the related spring and summer programs. The organization services 2,000 participants each year.

An additional allocation of \$250 is recommended, for a total allocation of \$3,750.

5. Moore Park Lawn Bowling Club

The original recommended allocation was \$1,800.

A 2007 grant will be used to offset green maintenance costs for grass cutting. The organization has 15.3 months of unrestricted reserves.

A representative of the organization addressed the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee, and filed a written submission.

The representative of the organization explained the high operating reserves. It is used for frequent green maintenance and repair of the specialized grass cutting equipment. As well, the operating reserves are set aside for repairs related to the lawn bowling club and surrounding park areas in order to provide a safe environment for participants. The representative spoke of the Club experiencing a decrease in membership of older-adults; however, the Club is outreaching to young people at 4 schools. He stated that contrary to popular belief, lawn bowling is played by young people at the regional, national and international levels. The Club would like another 2 years to increase its membership.

The Parks supervisor was contacted regarding the maintenance issues. The building is up to code and all maintenance requests have been addressed.

An additional allocation of \$700 is recommended, for the total recommended allocation of \$2,500.

6. New Canadian Community Centre

The original recommended allocation was \$0.00.

A 2007 grant will be used for a project to encourage home-bound Mandarin speaking seniors in Scarborough to participate in regular weekly recreational programs at the centre. The grant will go towards program expenses, administration and promotional costs, and volunteer training.

A representative of the organization addressed the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee, and filed a written submission. There has been an increase of seniors participating in the center's programs: 2004 – 8 participants; 2006 – 206 participants. Limited space is also an issue for the organization to run programs.

An additional allocation of \$500 is recommended, for the total recommended allocation of \$500.

7. Nigeria Eagles of Toronto

The original recommended allocation was \$2,500.

A 2007 grant will be used to help cover staffing and rental costs for soccer programs for children. The organization is a new applicant with very low unrestricted reserves, and a member of the Toronto Soccer Association. The organization targets the Jane-Woolner area, which has high density apartment dwellings. Jane-Woolner is in a priority neighbourhood (Mt. Dennis).

There are few organized sports within the surrounding community. Parks, Forestry and Recreation provides soccer programming within the local community, but not within walking distance for children from the apartment buildings.

A representative of the organization addressed the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee, and filed a written submission. The program participants have increased, requiring more financial resources for the organization to operate programs for soccer, volleyball and track and field events.

An additional allocation of \$0.00 is recommended, for the total recommended allocation of \$2,500.

8. Philadelphia Patriots Pathfinder Club

The original recommended allocation was \$2,000.

A 2007 grant will be used for a two weekend camping experience in the Rouge area for youth who would not otherwise have the experience of nature walks, hiking, exploring, learning outdoor skills etc. Funding will be used for materials (food, tents, crafts, sleeping bags) and permit fees. The organization did not achieve their fund raising goals and will require additional support to operate their program.

The organization provided a written appeal to the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee.

An additional allocation of \$250 is recommended, for the total recommended allocation of \$2,250.

9. Toronto Community and Cultural Centre

The original recommended allocation was \$1,250.

A 2007 grant will be used for organizing various activities and special events in the Mainland Chinese community including: Celebration of Canada Day,

Outdoor Activities, Family Day, Chinese New Year Celebration, and The Kids Soccer Program. The grant will support social outings and recreation programs, including swimming, badminton, chess, basketball and aerobics. The grant application included 3 special events. The Minor Recreation Investment Program does not provide funding for special events. Special events are funded through the Community Festival and Special Events (CFSE) Investment Program.

The application was noted as late, but reviewed due to the growing needs of the Mainland Chinese Mandarin community. The organization was recommended to receive the 2006 allocation. In 2005 the organization made a presentation on behalf of the Mandarin community to the Roundtable on Access and Equity as well as to the Major's Office.

A representative of the organization addressed the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee, about the growing needs of the Mandarin community. The Sub-Committee asked that the organization's application be considered by staff providing it meets the program criteria.

An additional allocation of \$500 is recommended, for a total recommended allocation of \$1,750.

10. Victoria Park Cricket Club

The original recommendation allocation was \$3,000.

A 2007 grant will be used to operate year round cricket for disadvantaged children and youth. The winter program will focus on coaching, fitness, seminars and workshops; summer program will focus on camps, coaching, and competitive learning strategies, and permit fees.

The organization provided a written appeal to the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee. The organization had "Other Source Funding" short fall during the current programming season. Without additional financial assistance the cricket programs would be under funded.

An additional allocation of \$500 is recommended, for a total recommended allocation of \$3,500.

11. York Gymnastics Club

The original recommended allocation was \$6,500.

A 2007 grant will be used for permits and to provide training for coaches. The organization generates a majority of their funds through fundraising and

membership fees. They are the only organization in the former City of York that provides competitive gymnastic programs to local residents.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation provides Introductory Gymnastic and Kinderygm programs within the community.

A representative of the organization addressed the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee, stating that their programs are mainly advertised through word of mouth. Without City funding the program cannot continue to operate.

An additional allocation of \$420 is recommended, for the total recommended allocation of \$6,920.

12. York Swim Club

The original recommended allocation was \$0.00.

A 2007 grant application will be used to rent another pool facility, to recruit coaches and diversify programs with the additional pool; for salary for pool supervisors, and equipment (lane ropes, backstroke flags, pace clock chalkboard). The original financials submitted with the application, were from 1999. The unaudited revised financials were dated August 31, 2006 to April 12, 2007. They were submitted late, and very difficult to assess, and showed high operating reserves.

It was later learned that the Club had applied to have their permit fees waived through the Parks, Forestry and Recreation General Manager's office, which is the protocol. In 2005 City of Toronto harmonize the Permit Policy and put a new fee structure in place.

Details Concerning Presentation to Appeals Sub-Committee

A representative of the organization addressed the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee, stating that the Club's 2006 high operating reserves doubled due to fundraising. In addition to increase of the City of Toronto's permit fees, the Club recently learned of an increase in pool rental fees from the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). The organization is experiencing financial challenges to pay for permit fees. The Club has a \$15,000 debt dispute with the TDSB.

An additional allocation of \$500 is recommended, for a total allocation of \$500.