



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Parks, Forestry and Recreation 2009 Recreation Allocation Recommendations

Date:	May 19, 2009
To:	Community Partnership and Investment Appeals Sub-Committee
From:	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	All Wards
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report presents the recommended allocations for all community organizations that have applied for 2009 recreation funding through the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division. The Division administers two recreation grants programs under the Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP): The Recreation Partnership Program (also known as Majors), which funds multi-service agencies that provide ongoing programs at the local neighbourhood level; and the Recreation Investment Program (also known as Minors), which funds primarily small to medium organizations that offer leisure or sports activity to local communities.

The 2009 approved budget for Majors and Minors totals \$1,404,950 with \$1,027,650 allocated for Majors and \$377,300 for Minors. This budget reflects a 2% funding level adjustment over the 2008 Approved Budget.

A total of twenty-five (25) organizations applied for Major grants. Twenty-three (23) organizations were returning major applicants. One of these returning major applicants submitted a late application. There were two new applicants, neither of which was recommended due to insufficient funds. One of the two received funding under the 2008 Minors, and is also recommended for the 2009 Minors.

The 2009 recommended allocation for Majors totals \$977,664.51, with \$46,920.00 set aside for an expected appeal from Dixon Hall. This agency provides an important service to the Regent Park community and is a long standing recipient of a Major Recreation Partnership grant. In addition, \$3,065.49 is set aside for other appeals. This funding is available due to a 2008 funded program under the trusteeship of Toronto Kiwanis Boys

and Girls Club (a Majors recipient in 2008 and recommended in 2009) for Green Thumbs Growing Kids being recommended directly under the 2009 Minor Recreation Investment Program.

A total of 100 organizations applied for Minors funding, of these 3 were received late. The 2009 recommended allocations for Minors is \$364,434 with \$12,866 set aside for the appeal process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. the Community Partnership and Investment Appeals Sub-Committee approve the allocations for the Recreation Partnership Program (Majors) and the Recreation Investment Program (Minors) totalling \$1,342,098.51, as per Attachment 1 and Attachment 2;
2. \$49,985.49 be set aside for the grants appeals process for Majors;
3. \$12,866 be set aside for the grants appeals process for Minors;
4. this report be forwarded to the meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee; and,
5. the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report recommends allocation of the 2009 approved operating budget of \$1,027,650.00 (including \$49,985.49 set aside for appeals) for the Recreation Partnership Program and \$377,300.00 (including \$12,866.00 set aside for appeals) for the Recreation Investment Program within CPIP, as per Attachment 1 and Attachment 2.

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division focuses on three areas of service priorities: child and youth development, lifelong active living for all, and environmental stewardship. These service priorities aid the City of Toronto to achieve its vision and values of “Prosperity, Opportunity, and Liveability”.

As a strategic tool, recreation grants support organizations that practise community development at the neighbourhood level. This approach to supporting neighbourhood services provides direct intervention for at-risk individuals and emerging communities, and complements the delivery of Parks, Forestry and Recreation programs and services to residents. There is an increasing need for the City to support community organizations that address topical issues, such as social isolation, obesity, youth violence, and poverty.

The absence of a significant appeals amount for Majors, beyond Dixon Hall's 2009 anticipated funding, reflects the full use of the 2009 Major grant budget. As a result, established organizations that provide multi-services to Toronto's diverse and emerging communities have been unable to enter the Major grant program. These organizations continue to request yearly funding through the Minor grant program. It is not likely that any of the agencies currently funded under the Major program will refrain from requesting the same level of grant support year after year. Parks, Forestry and Recreation should work toward a more equitable distribution of partnership funding that reflects Toronto's changing demographics and community needs. This will help Parks, Forestry and Recreation in promoting recreation and leisure as essential to healthy living that benefits all.

COMMENTS

The recommended grant recipients for both Majors and Minors are reasonably distributed across the City. The 2009 recommended allocations were influenced by feedback from Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff and Social Development, Finance and Administration Community Development Officers. Agency visits were scheduled in 2008 to observe the majority of programs that are recommended for 2009 funding. Ongoing communication with agency applicants and reviewing of 2008 Final Reports also played an important role in the assessment.

In 2008 \$1,592,114 was requested for Majors with \$1,404,139 requested in 2009 - a difference of \$87,975 representing a decrease of 12%. In 2008 \$959,934 was requested for Minors with \$812,661 requested in 2009 – a difference of \$147,273 representing a decrease of 15%. Even though 2009 requests have decreased over 2008, there remains a substantial deficit between requested and available funding.

Increasing participation in recreation is a priority for the City of Toronto. Continuing to ensure that quality and coordinated programs and services are funded through the Recreation Partnership and Investment Program is essential to making recreation available for all Torontonians. In considering Toronto's changing demographics and current gaps in recreation services, organizations that provide multi-services to Toronto's diverse and emerging communities are a critical partner for Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Brenda Patterson
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 2009 Summary of Recommendations - Major Recreation Partnership Program

Attachment 2 – 2009 Summary of Recommendations - Minor Recreation Investment Program

Attachment 3 – 2009 Summary Sheets – Major Recreation Partnership Program

Attachment 4 – 2009 Summary Sheets – Minor Recreation Investment Program

Attachment 5 - 2009 Major Recreation Partnership Program Guidelines

Attachment 6 – 2009 Minor Recreation Investment Program Guidelines