



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Parks, Forestry and Recreation 2009 Recreation  
Allocation Appeal Recommendations**

<b>Date:</b>	June 4, 2009
<b>To:</b>	Community Development and Recreation Committee
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	All Wards
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

**SUMMARY**

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This report recommends that the \$49,985.49 appeals funds from the 2009 Recreation Partnership Program (generally known as Majors) be allocated to Dixon Hall in the amount of \$46,920.00, and the remaining amount of \$3,065.49 be a one-time transfer to augment the \$12,866.00 appeals funds of the Minor Recreation Investment Program (generally known as Minors). The total available appeals funds for Minors is therefore \$15,931.49.

Eleven (11) organizations appealed their 2009 recommended allocations through deputations and/or written appeals. Of the eleven (11) organizations, nine (9) addressed the Community Partnership and Investment Appeals Sub-Committee; and 2 submitted just written appeals. Of the eleven (11) organizations, all but one (1) is recommended for appeal allocations as per Attachment 1 and Attachment 2.

The existence of such a significant appeals fund in the Majors is primarily a result of a late application from Dixon Hall. As well, Toronto Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club reduced their request as they are no longer acting as Trustee for Green Thumbs Growing Kids, who are now incorporated and are recommended under the 2009 Minor program.

The Major Recreation Partnership Program guidelines specify that the program “allows for a structured link between Parks, Forestry and Recreation and organizations to ensure coordination of planning and service delivery.” Partnership with multi-service agencies is the focus of the Major Grant program. On the other hand, the Minor Grant Program focuses on investment and supporting neighbourhood development. In recognition of the distinctions between these two programs, funding should normally be kept separate.

However, it is recommended that given that the special circumstance that Toronto Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club is no longer supporting the grant application for the Green Thumb Growing Kids through the Majors program, a surplus of \$3,065.49 in the Majors program be transferred to the 2009 Minor Grant program on a one-time, this year only basis.

Appeals were heard on May 29, 2009 at the Community Partnership and Investment Appeals Sub-Committee meeting at City Hall. (see May 19, 2009 report *Parks, Forestry and Recreation 2009 Recreation Allocation Recommendations* for details).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. the Community Development and Recreation Committee approves the total appeals allocations of \$49,985.49 for the Recreation Partnership Program (Majors) and the Recreation Investment Program (Minors) within the Community Partnership and Investment Program;
2. \$46,920.00 to be allocated to Dixon Hall, as per Attachment 1;
3. \$3,065.49 be a one-time transfer from the Majors to augment the Minor Recreation Investment Program appeals fund of \$12,866.00;
4. \$15,931.49 total appeals funds be allocated to the Minor organizations, as per Attachment 2; and
5. 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 2009 approved Operating Budget.

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

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The Community Recreation Partnership and Investment Program provides grants to community organizations which reinforce the Division's service priorities: environmental stewardship, child and youth development, and lifelong active living. There is an increasing need for the City to support community organizations that address topical issues, such as social isolation, obesity, youth violence, poverty, and the changing demographics of Toronto. Balancing the growing requests for funding from

organizations of emerging communities with historically funded organizations under the Major Recreation Partnership Program continues to be a challenge.

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. 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.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Brenda Patterson  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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

Attachment 2 – 2009 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 – 2009 Summary of Appeals Recommendations – Major Recreation Partnership Program**

<b>Organization and ID Number</b>	<b>2009 Original Recommendation</b>	<b>2009 Appeal Recommendation</b>	<b>2009 Total Recommendation</b>
(MJ13) Dixon Hall	\$0.00	\$46,920.00	\$46,920.00
Transfer to Minor Program		\$3,065.49	
<b>Total Appeals</b>		<b>\$49,985.49</b>	

**Attachment 2 – 2009 Summary of Appeals Recommendations – Minor Recreation Investment Program**

<b>Organization and ID Number</b>	<b>2009 Original Recommendation</b>	<b>2009 Appeal Recommendation</b>	<b>2009 Total Recommendation</b>
(MN50) Green Thumbs Growing Kids	\$3,060.00	\$1,940.00	\$5,000.00
(MN6) Ethio Lion Sports Club	\$2,040.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,040.00
(MN75) Academy of Latin Baseball of Toronto Inc.	\$2,040.00	\$2,171.49	\$4,211.49
(MN53) Momentum 1, Community in Motion	\$4,000.00	\$3,065.49*	\$7,065.49
(MN4) B-Fitt Programs & Services	\$2,000.00	\$934.51	\$2,934.51
(MN79) Canadian Somali Seniors Centre	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
(MN65) Toronto Community and Culture Centre	\$2,040.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,040.00
(MN54) Muay Thai Training Centre	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
(MN87) Surayi Community Association of Ontario	\$2,040.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,040.00
(MN30) York – Fairbank Centre for Seniors	\$9,180.00	\$2,820.00	\$12,000.00
<b>Total Appeals</b>		<b>\$15,931.49**</b>	

\* **\$3,065.49 is a one-time transfer from Majors.**

\*\* **The total 2009 appeal recommendation of \$15,931.49 represents the \$12,866.00 from the appeals funds set aside for Minors plus the one-time transfer of \$3,065.49 from Majors.**

## **Attachment 3 – 2009 Description of Appeals Recommendations - Major Recreation Partnership Program**

### **1. Dixon Hall**

**The original recommended allocation was \$0.00**, as the application was received late and late applications are not reviewed.

Dixon Hall provides an important service to the Regent Park community and is a long standing recipient of the Major Recreation Partnership grant. The organization's 2009 recommended allocation of \$46,920.00 was set aside, pending approval at the Community Partnership and Investment Program Appeals Subcommittee.

Two representatives of the agency addressed the CPIP Appeals Sub-Committee stating that there was staff change due to unexpected illness and the deadline was missed. The representatives expressed regret for not meeting the deadline and acknowledged that it is the agency's responsibilities to meet its obligations and that the appeal is a one-time reprieve to the organization.

The agency offers a Summer Day Camp Program with social, recreational, and developmental activities for children ages 3 to 12, and youth ages 15-25. The activities for children include: Arts and crafts, sports, organized recreational games, day trips, breakfast and lunch program and theme weeks. The activities for youth include: Life and employment skills development, and employment for youth from the community as camp counsellors and support staff.

In addition, the Summer Slam Camp provides a safe and enjoyable 5 day overnight camping trip for 40 at-risk young people ages 13-17 years. The activities include: Social and recreational programs, movies, meal planning and cooking.

An additional allocation of \$46,920.00 is recommended, for a total of \$46,920.00.

## **Attachment 4 - Description of 2009 Appeals Recommendations – Minor Recreation Investment Program**

### **1. Green Thumbs Growing Kids**

The original recommended allocation was \$3,060.00.

The agency provides hands-on opportunities for urban children, youth and families to grow and prepare fresh foods in an environmentally sustainable and equitable manner. The programs offered are: The Riverdale Farm After-School Program, Winchester School/Community Garden Summer Program, and Greenhouse programming at Allen Gardens Children's Conservatory.

A representative of the organization addressed the Appeals Sub-Committee stating that since being incorporated the agency no longer has access to charity dollars through their former trustee Toronto Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club. She stated that \$5,000.00 is the program cost and emphasized that Green Thumbs is critical through July and August and that it is the only program of its kind that walks children to Riverdale Farm.

An additional allocation of \$1,940.00 is recommended, for a total allocation of \$5,000.00.

### **2. Ethio Lion Sports Club**

The original recommended allocation was \$2,040.00.

Ethio Lions Sports Club has been operating for the past three years in the Greater Toronto area. The club focuses on youth in newly arrived families and promotes programs such as: Soccer, basketball and education tutoring and training volunteers.

A representative of the organization addressed the Appeals Sub-Committee and stated that the 2009 grant will be used for the soccer program for youth ages 17-25. The organization is requesting an increase because last year's finances were down.

An additional allocation of \$1,000.00 is recommended, for a total allocation of \$3,040.00.

**3. Academy of Latin Baseball of Toronto Inc.**

The original recommended allocation was \$2,040.00.

The 2009 grant will be used to acquire the proper equipment such as bases, baseballs, bats, gloves, and associated costs for organizing games with other baseball organizations in the GTA.

A representative of the organization addressed the Appeals Sub-Committee asking for an increase of their recommended allocation. He stated that 60% of parents in the Latin community are unemployed. As a result, the organization has decided to waive fees.

An additional allocation of \$2,171.49 is recommended, for a total allocation of \$4,211.49.

**4. Momentum 1, Community in Motion**

The original recommended allocation was \$4,000.00.

The organization offers the *Wellness Wagon*, a 5-10 kilometre fitness walk program that includes 16 walking programs in 16 wards of the City of Toronto. The walk includes trails and paths.

A representative of the organization addressed the Appeals Sub-Committee and stated that the organization is short of funds and that an increase in the recommended allocation will ensure the implementation of the program. In his written statement he said the organization “has a proven track record of producing the successful Toronto Trails Festival, now in its seventh year.”

An additional allocation of \$3,065.49 is recommended, for a total allocation of \$7,065.49.

**5. B-Fitt Programs & Services**

The original recommended allocation was \$2,000.00

The agency was created 15 years ago to provide opportunities for children to be involved in positive developmental programming through participation in sports.



A representative of the organization addressed the Appeals Sub-Committee and stated that a number of participants from the program are now athletes receiving scholarships and some are on professional teams in Europe. He requested more funding to pay for supervisory staff.

An additional allocation of \$934.51 is recommended, for the total recommended allocation of \$2,934.51.

## **6. Canadian Somali Seniors Centre**

The original recommended allocation was \$2,000.00.

The agency was established in 2005 with the intent to increase the quality of life and to promote social interaction, good health and recreation for Somali seniors. Education programs, counselling, research materials and outreach to the community are services that are also offered to members.

A representative of the organization addressed the Appeals Sub-Committee and stated this is the first time their centre is asking to provide services to their community rather than through other services. Most of the seniors are isolated and on low income. In his written submission he stated that the grant will “assist the needs of the seniors for this project.”

An additional allocation of \$1,000.00 is recommended, for the total recommended allocation of \$3,000.00.

## **7. Toronto Community and Culture Centre**

The original recommended allocation was \$2,040.00.

The agency provides services to the Mainland Chinese community. The services include: Personal and group counselling, educational and social services.

Two representatives of the organization addressed the Appeals Sub-Committee, and stated that since 1997 the organization has received a Minor grant for youth programs. The organization is expanding its services to seniors.

An additional allocation of \$1,000.00 is recommended, for the total recommended allocation of \$3,040.00.

**8. Muay Thai Training Centre**

The original recommended allocation was \$600.00.

Muay Thai training program includes: After-school and week-end Muay Thai boxing classes, health/fitness and nutrition promotion.

A representative of the organization addressed the Appeals Sub-Committee and stated that they have an established association with Scadding Court Community Centre.

A recommended allocation of \$0.00 is recommended, for the total recommended allocation of \$600.00.

**9. Surayi Community Association of Ontario**

The original recommended allocation was \$2,040.00

Founded in 2007, this agency promotes strong links and coordinates and improves the social, economical life for all Surayi people already living here in Toronto. Programs provided include: Fitness, crafts, music, painting, support to isolated and disabled seniors, and other social activities.

A representative of the organization sent a written appeal to the Appeals Sub-Committee stating that there is a “growing demand in our Community to help seniors” and the organization has limited resources.

An additional allocation of \$2,000.00 is recommended, for a total recommended allocation of \$4,040.00.

**10. York–Fairbank Centre for Seniors**

The original recommended allocation was \$9,180.00

The agency provides social, recreational, educational and multicultural services to a very diverse and high needs community. The agency is located in Lawrence Heights, a priority neighbourhood hood. The programs offered include income tax clinics, health and wellness workshops, trips and counselling. The participants range from ages 55 to 97.

A representative of the organization submitted a written appeal stating that over the last five years participation level for seniors has increased 300% for strength and flexibility programs, movement therapy for disabled seniors, and

aquafit. An increase of the recommended allocation to \$12,000.00, would allow the centre to continue to operate five (5) days per week and hire culturally sensitive instructors.

An additional allocation of \$2,820.00 is recommended, for a total recommended allocation of \$12,000.00.