



DATE: June 8, 2021

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Community Development

TITLE: **Neighborhood Grant Award for Cooper Park Neighborhood Association**

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a \$2,000 neighborhood grant for the Cooper Park Neighborhood Association for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

BACKGROUND

The Neighborhood Grant Program provides financial support for new and existing neighborhood associations to carry out programs and activities that encourage participation, strengthen the neighborhood, and improve neighborhood conditions. Neighborhood grants may be awarded up to the maximum amount outlined in Table 1 based on the number of households covered by the neighborhood group. Every spring, the Council Neighborhoods Committee (CNC) reviews the grant applications and formally approves grant awards within a total program budget of \$30,000. The CNC is comprised of three Councilmembers, and a majority vote is required to approve grant awards.

Table 1: Maximum Grant Awards by Tier

	Maximum Award
Tier A: <500 households	\$1,000
Tier B: 501 to 1,000 households	\$1,500
Tier C: 1,001 to 1,500 households	\$2,000
Tier D: >1,501 households	\$2,500

The CNC met on May 13, 2021 to review and approve neighborhood grants for the Fiscal Year 2021-22 cycle. One CNC member was unable to attend the May 13 meeting, which still allowed for a quorum to approve 16 grant awards totaling \$26,700. Chair Pat Showalter, one of the present CNC members, is active in her neighborhood association, Cooper Park, and abstained from voting on the application from the Cooper Park

neighborhood. With one CNC member absent and one CNC member abstaining, the CNC was unable to achieve the majority required to approve an award on May 13 for the Cooper Park Neighborhood Association.

The CNC directed staff to pursue an alternative opportunity to review and provide a decision on the Cooper Park neighborhood grant. All grant funds must be used between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, and there is no carryover of funds that are not used within this period. In coordination with the City Clerk's Office, this item has been put before the full Council for consideration of the Cooper Park request in order to reach a timely decision and allow the group to access funds at the beginning of the fiscal year should the grant request be approved. This solution prevents the need to schedule a Special Meeting of the CNC to make a decision on this item as the decision made by Council will serve as the final step in the approval process.

ANALYSIS

Based on the Neighborhood Grant Program Guidelines, the Cooper Park Neighborhood Association is eligible for a grant award of up to \$2,000. The Cooper Park Neighborhood Association serves 1,297 households, placing them in Tier C, which has a maximum grant award of \$2,000 as outlined in Table 1 above. The group meets the basic eligibility requirements of submitting a complete application, having an active project team of at least four individuals, and demonstrating a budget for the requested award. Over the term of the grant, the group is proposing a number of activities, including a fall picnic, tree planting, block parties, and website development. All of these activities are eligible uses of grant funds under the guidelines, and the application demonstrates how the grant award will be used to execute the events listed above. Based on these factors, staff recommends the maximum amount of \$2,000 for the Cooper Park Neighborhood Association for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

NEXT STEPS

Should Council approve the grant award of \$2,000 for the Cooper Park Neighborhood Association, staff will work with the neighborhood association to finalize the grant agreement in conjunction with the agreements for the other neighborhood associations who have received awards in time for the July 1, 2021 start date of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 grant cycle.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Neighborhood Grant Program has an annual General Fund budget of \$30,000 as part of the City's base budget. The approval of the Cooper Park Neighborhood Association

grant would result in a total of \$28,700 of grant dollars awarded, which is within the established budget.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide other direction to staff.

PUBLIC NOTICING

The Council's agenda is advertised on Channel 26, and the agenda and this report appear on the City's website.

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- Attachment: 1. May 13, 2021 Staff Memo for the Council Neighborhoods Committee Meeting