

Report

Date November 20, 2024

File:

Subject Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association – 2025 Grant-in-Aid

PURPOSE

To review the 2025 Grant-in-Aid application for the Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association.

BACKGROUND

Council's Grant-in-Aid Policy (Attachment 1) invites applications from non-profit societies operating within North Cowichan under tourism, economic development, social/environmental services, sports groups, and arts and culture. The grants can be used for capital, operating or one-off special event purposes.

DISCUSSION

All grant-in-aid applications were presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 12, 2024, for review and recommendations for the 2025 tax year. The Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association, which has received an annual grant of \$38,600 for the past two years, informed staff that they missed the October 15, 2024, deadline to request an increase in their grant. The request for a grant increase is due to a rent increase to approximately \$62,400 annually.

Staff recommended excluding their annual grant from the 2025 Grant-in-Aid report to the Committee of the Whole, emphasizing the need for proper documentation and a formal application to enable the Council to make an informed decision regarding the grant increase.

The Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association is requesting an increase to their annual grant to \$45,000 annually (\$6,400 increase over 2024). Attachment 2 includes their application along with financials. If Council approves the increase, the grant-in-aid budget for 2025 will be \$243,000 funded from taxation, which is \$3,750 lower than the original 2025 budget.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council approve the annual grant-in-aid amount of \$45,000 to the Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association for 2025.
 - Council will be supporting the good work the organization does by providing additional assistance with increasing rent.
2. THAT Council approve the annual grant-in-aid amount of \$38,600 to the Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association for 2025.

IMPLICATIONS

If Council approves the annual increase for the Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association, the total amount funded by taxation for grant-in-aid in 2025 will be \$243,000. It is important to note that this will set the new annual amount for future years if approved.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the annual grant-in-aid amount of \$45,000 to the Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association for 2025.

Report prepared by:



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Director, Financial Services

Report reviewed and approved to be forwarded to Council:



Bill Corsan
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- (1) Grant-in-Aid Policy
- (2) Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association