



FY 2017 – 2018 Community Improvement Grant Appeals Recommendations

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City Council Meeting

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Background

- Annually, the Community Advisory Board (CAB) provides small grants to community and neighborhood groups through the Community Improvement Grant (CIG) Program.
- The Office of Community Engagement has managed the program for last 2 years.
- CAB awards grants to applicants whose projects best meet the funding criteria.

History FY 2007 – 2017

- Prior to FY 2007-08, Council allocated about \$5,000 for community improvement grants per CAB area per year (\$35,000 total each year for the program).
- Average number awarded per grant cycle – 17
- Average dollar amount awarded - \$1,560

FY 2017-18 CIG Program

- CAB received 48 grant applications, totaling \$180,237 in requested funds.
- 20 applications were submitted by Eric Fraser on behalf of the Greater Cherry Street Neighborhood Association (GCSNA), totaling \$82,625 in requested funds.
- CAB chose 9 projects for funding, totaling \$31,483 using evaluation criteria outlined in the grant application.

Greater Cherry Street Neighborhood Association Appeals

On December 20, 2017, CAB received 17 application appeals:

- #1701 Sidewalk Condition Survey (\$4,000)
- #1702 Sidewalk Info Pack (1,000)
- #1703 Verge Remediation (\$5,000)
- ~~#1704 1715 Sidewalk Repairs (\$60,000)~~
- #1718 Community Dog Walker Info Pack (\$1,000)
- #1720 GCSNA Communications (\$5,000)

Basis for Appeals

- The CAB “appeared not to have the time, patience, willingness or professional training to consider” the applications.
- Not given adequate presentation time for optional presentation.
- Not satisfied with CAB’s final reasoning for why applications were not approved for funding – not enough money to fund every project.

Reasons Affecting Funding Decision

- For projects 1701 – 1703: Per Council Policy 13-32.020 Maintenance and Repair of Sidewalks, sidewalk repairs are the responsibility of the property owner.
- For projects 1718 and 1720: CAB had limited funding and chose other projects to fund.

Fiscal Impact

- The appeal requests \$16,000 to fund GCSNA projects
- With current grants awarded and pending completion, CIG funds are full depleted for FY 2017-18 projects.
- Office of Community Engagement does not have \$16,000 to fund these projects.
- If appeal granted, funding would have to be identified from the General Fund or Reserve

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Office of Community Engagement and the Community Advisory Board that the Council deny all FY 2017-18 Community Improvement Grant application appeals submitted on behalf of the Greater Cherry Street Neighborhood Association.

Questions?