

Staff Report

Presented By: Dawn Mittelholtz, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk

Meeting Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: Community Donation Policy Update

Attachment(s): None.

Recommendation

That Council receive the Community Donation Policy Update report for information.

Report Summary

On October 10, 2023, Council adopted the Community Donations Policy for implementation in 2024. The objectives of this Policy will not be achieved for implementation. The dollar amounts requested by community organizations exceed the scope of the Policy and require a different approach. This report provides Council with awareness of these matters in advance of the Business Plan discussions.

Background/Analysis

The intention of the Community Donation Policy was to receive applications from community organizations for donation requests. The Policy and application was to be circulated to community organizations that typically make these requests. Due to workload capacity, the timelines for submission were missed. However, the groups that typically make these requests provided requests in the same fashion the Town had used before the Policy. This report is to advise Council of the recommended path forward and provide awareness of the requests received, some that are beyond the scope of the Policy.

Below are the two forms of contributions the Town has received requests for.

Annual/Ongoing Contributions

- Special Event In-Kind support accounts for approximately 552 hours or +/- \$18,000 annually to support special events in the Town as a Base Operating priority level.
- Airport Operation Grant for 2025 is \$10,449 as a Base Operating priority level.
- The Saugeen Rail Trail Operation Grant is \$21,902 for 2025 as a Base Operating priority level.

- The Saugeen Memorial Hospital Grant is \$50,000 annually for a 5-year commitment from 2022-2026 as a Base Operating Priority.
- Minor Sports are subsidized with reduced facility fees
- Marine Heritage Society is provided in-kind support

One-time Contribution Requests for the 2025 Business Plan

- \$25,000 grant allocation in the annual Business Plan to be distributed among the requests received as a Base Operating priority;
 - \$5,000 annual commitment to Hospice for 2024-2026 requested as a Base Operating priority; and
 - \$2,500 Chambettes' request for a Fall contribution to the Food Bank requested as a Base Operating priority.
- \$175,000 requested from the Southampton Tennis Club for court improvements as a Low Operating priority.
- \$100,000 annual request as an operating grant for the Arts Society as a Medium Operating priority.

As a result of receiving requests beyond the scope of the Policy, it is recommended that the Community Donation Policy be re-evaluated in the first and second quarter of 2025 following Council deliberation of the 2025 Business Plan and budget to better reflect the community contributions being approved by Council and develop a policy framework that better aligns with expectations.

Linkages

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 3: Building Valued Relationships
- Business Plan Alignment: Corporate Services Business as Usual

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

Estimated revenue/costs of \$400,351 associated with this program will be included in the 2025 Business Plan for Council consideration

Prepared By: Dawn Mittelholtz, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk

Reviewed By: Jim Bundschuh, Director, Corporate Services

Approved By: Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer