



CITY OF VANCOUVER

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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Report Date: April 15, 2008
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Meeting Date: April 29, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Vancouver Sport Hosting Grant: 2008 Allocations & Changes to the Grant Options

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve Major Sport Hosting Grants totalling \$13,000 as listed in the body of this report. Source of funds to be the 2008 Sport Hosting Grant Budget.
- B. THAT Council approve changes to the Community Sport Event Grants as noted in the report.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreations recommends approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

On July 13, 2006 Council approved a Sport Hosting Policy and Sport Hosting Grant Program effective January 1, 2007, with annual funding of \$200,000 to support a range of sporting events not eligible under the Hosting BC program.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

SUMMARY

This report recommends approval of 2008 Major Sport Event Operating Grants totaling \$13,000. It also recommends changes to the Community Sport Event Grants in order to increase community participation and more effectively provide the program support envisioned in the original report to Council.

BACKGROUND

On July 13, 2006, as part of a report on the development of a comprehensive Vancouver Sport Strategy, Council approved a Sport Hosting Grant Program with annual funding of \$200,000 to support a range of sporting events not eligible under the HostingBC Program.

At the same meeting under a separate report, Council approved funding in the amount of \$300,000 over a three year period (\$100,000 in each of 2007, 2008 & 2009) to support the development of the 2009 BC World Police and Fire Games to be held in Vancouver, with the source of funds to be the newly approved Sport Hosting Program. This approval leaves \$100,000 in grants available per year for each year between 2007 and 2009 to support other Sport Hosting Grant applicants.

Specific assessment guidelines were also outlined in the Council report and three types of grants were designed to support sport hosting:

- **Major Sport Event Operating Grant** - Funding for direct operating costs only to a maximum of 10% of total gross operating budget, to a maximum of \$100,000. This grant cannot be used for capital projects, prize money, to advance a profit venture or to advance the activities of the host. Funding to be provided in two stages, with the second amount following review of financial statement and payment of any City services.
- **Major Sport Event City Service Offset Grant** - Funding to offset direct City services provided by departments or boards such as Police, Engineering, or Park Board. Maximum grant of 50% of City service costs to a maximum of \$10,000; not to be applied to deposits or any expenses except direct City services and no cheque will be produced by the City for deposit by event organizers.
- **Community Sport Event City Service Offset Grant** - Funding to offset direct City services as above. Maximum grant of 50% of City service costs to a maximum of \$1,000.

Council approved grants totaling \$46,000 at its meeting on May 1, 2007 and \$44,562.30 was paid out to two organizations. While there was a second intake period in 2007, no further grant applications were received and the remaining program funding was carried forward to 2008.

DISCUSSION

For the 2008 grant process, a Review Panel was formed and included representatives with a range of expertise in sport hosting from the Park Board, the City's FEST Committee and key stakeholders in the sport hosting community.

The Review Panel members for the initial intake of the 2008 Sport Hosting grants are:

Anita Ho, Review Panel Chair, Director of Corporate Services, Park Board

Daisy Chin, Recreation Services Coordinator-Special Events and Filming/FEST Committee, Park Board

Warren Coughlan, Manager of Recreation Services, Stanley District, Park Board

Meg Elliott, Senior Business Analyst, Park Board

Bruce MacWilliam, Recreation Services Coordinator, Park Board

Mike Fox, Manager, Sport Tourism Sales, Tourism Vancouver

Pete Quevillon, Director, KidSport Development, SportBC

Given the relatively few applicants for the Vancouver Sport Hosting Grants in 2007, efforts were made to increase applicants:

- Application documents were made available on the Park Board's web site to provide easy access to interested groups.
- The Community Sport Event City Service Offset Grant application process was simplified.
- To ensure organizations were informed about the program, members of the Review Panel communicated program details and deadlines to their various clients, stakeholders and appropriate groups.
- Community Associations presidents were provided with both written and electronic notices and application packages.
- Panel members also followed up with groups which might have events falling within the current timeframe.
- Deadlines were extended for the initial intake period to allow grant applicants additional time to apply.

Despite the above efforts to encourage applications a total of six applications were received. In reviewing the applications received over the last 16 months, no applications have been made for either the Major or Community City Service Offset grants, despite simplifying the application process and making additional efforts to target groups eligible for these funds.

The Panel met in mid-April to discuss the grant applications from the first 2008 intake and arrive at a consensus for recommendations. Panel members expressed disappointment at not receiving applications for Community City Service Offset grants and discussed approaches for encouraging their submission.

As a result of the lack of response over the last 16 months, the Panel is recommending changes to the Community Sport Event Grant option. The Community Sport Event Grant was initially set up to offset direct city service costs (ice time, engineering costs, police costs, etc.) to a maximum of \$1,000. Based on feedback from the group, it is proposed to provide funding for any direct operating costs meeting the Major Sport Event criteria (not just direct city service costs) and to increase the maximum grant available to \$5,000.

Summary of Review Panel Recommendations

The Review Panel applied the evaluative criteria outlined in the assessment guidelines carefully, noting that Council required certain criteria to be met while others were to be considered enhancements to an application. Not all organizations met the required criteria and therefore some applications could not be recommended for support.

Table 1 below outlines the organizations and events which applied for grants, and the requested & recommended grants.

Table 1

Organization	Event	Grant Requested	Grant Recommended
Gymnastics BC	BC Gymnaestrada 2008	\$3,000	\$3,000
VolleyballBC	Beach Volleyball High School, College and University Open 2008	\$5,000	\$5,000
BC Rhythmic Sportive Gymnastics Federations	Western Regional Championships 2008	\$5,000	\$5,000
Curl BC	World Junior & World Wheelchair Curling Championships 2009	\$60,000	Pending
Skate Canada	BMO Canadian Figure Skating Championship 2008	\$35,000	\$0
Skate Canada - BC/Yukon Section	ISU 4 Continents Figure Skating Championship 2009	\$100,000	\$0
Total	6 Events	\$208,000	\$13,000

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As listed above, the Review Panel is recommending support for 3 Major Sport Operating grants for a total amount of \$13,000.

One application is pending approvals of the HostingBC grant program which may impact its eligibility for the Vancouver Sport Hosting grant program. If this application continues to meet the Vancouver Sport Hosting Grant guidelines, it will be brought forward in second report to Council in July 2008.

Approval of these recommendations leaves an unallocated balance of \$87,000 in the 2008 Sport Event Hosting Grant budget for the second deadline in June 2008. The \$55,400 carried forward from 2007 also remains available. It is recommended that Council approves the recommended changes to the Community Sport Event Grant option to encourage more groups to request funds for the second 2008 intake period.

CONCLUSION

This report outlines the first recommendations on 2008 Vancouver Sport Hosting Grants. The recommendations reflect a careful and considered process of the Review Panel members, against the policy and guidelines provided by Council. A report recommending allocation of remaining Sport Hosting Grants to projects from the second intake will be presented to City Council later in the year.

The report also recommends Council approve changes to the Community Sport Event Grant option. The Community Sport Event Grant was initially set up to offset direct city service costs to a maximum of \$1,000. It is proposed to change this grant option to increase the maximum grant available to \$5,000 and provide funding for direct operating costs meeting the criteria outlined under the Major Sport Event Grant (not just direct city service costs). It is hoped these changes will increase applications for these grants and more effectively provide the support to community sport events envisioned in the original report to Council.

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