
Memorandum

To: Budget Standing Committee

Cc: Phil Cristi, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture Services

From: Lori Mambella, Manager, Programs and Culture Services

Date: November 21, 2018

Subject: Social Sustainability Committee Request to Increase 2019 Waiving of Fees Budget

On November 15th, 2018, the Social Sustainability Committee approved the following motion:

“To increase Fee Waiving budget to \$20,000 for 2019 and to include that dollar figure in the policy for 2019 and future years.”

Moved by: Robert Hillier

Motion: Carried

In the 2019 draft operating budget, there is currently \$15,000 for the City grant program funded by the Civic Project Fund.

Last year at this time, the Social Sustainability Committee approved a similar motion to have the 2018 waiving of fees funding increased from \$12,500 to \$20,000 and this recommendation was subsequently approved by both the Budget Standing Committee and City Council. Prior to that in 2017, Council approved to have the funding increased from \$12,500 to \$16,417.83 to accommodate an influx of applications; the additional funds came from the Civic Project Fund.

To date in 2018, there have been a total of 42 waiving of fees applications of which 31 were approved. Of the total \$20,000 budget for 2018, to date 89% of these funds have been allocated.

The Special Event waiving of fees program continues to grow and attract new applications every year. The Social Sustainability Committee recognizes the importance of special events in that they build civic pride, encourage local engagement and attract people to the community and supporting them has been identified as a goal within the City of St. Catharines Strategic Plan.