

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Aurora City Council

**THROUGH:** Jason Batchelor, Interim City Manager  
Malcolm Hankins, Director, Neighborhood Services

**FROM:** Neighborhood Beautification Grant Review Committee:  
  
Margee Cannon, Neighborhood Liaison Coordinator  
Meg Allen, Neighborhood Liaison  
Susan Barkman, Neighborhood Liaison  
Scott Campbell, Neighborhood Liaison

**DATE:** July 11, 2018

**RE:** 2018 Neighborhood Beautification Grant Funding Decisions

### **Background**

In 2015, as part of the Great Aurora Neighbor Helping Neighbor Clean-Up Initiative, City Council approved \$60,000 (\$10,000 for each ward) to fund the Aurora Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program. This program was designed to encourage neighborhood initiative in taking action to improve the appearance of Aurora while strengthening the social fabric and organizational networks of community residents. Specifically, the desired goals of the Beautification Grant Program are:

1. Improve the appearance and condition of their neighborhood
2. Enhance neighborhood pride and identity
3. Promote self-reliance
4. Increase communication among neighbors

In 2018 the program continued to grow in popularity and the city received 28 grant applications, totaling \$119,021. This far exceeds the \$99,834 that was requested in 2017. All submitted neighborhood applications reflect the best of intention and have significant value in the community, but, due to limits in funding, the review committee was only able to recommend funding or partial funding for a limited number of groups. The funding committee reviewed applications against the following criteria:

- Intended more for widespread public enjoyment/benefit as opposed to private residential benefit
- Provides opportunity for neighbors to join in a teamwork effort that strengthens social bonds while enhancing physical image
- Encompasses at least three neighborhood households in working together
- Demonstrates a high level of planning and organization, including timelines, what aspect of the project that grant funds will be specifically used for, detailed bids, names

of neighbors willing to work, matching contributions including time and money, etc....

- Applicant/neighborhood group has demonstrated, through past experience, that it has enjoyed past successes and is able to impart knowledge and how-to tips to other neighborhood groups
- Complies with existing city codes and policies

Below is a summary description of all submitted proposals, the amount requested, and funding recommendations.

### **Ward I**

#### **Blockmeister Clean Up Program**

**Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$3,700**

The Block Meister program will continue to recruit new volunteers who are in charge of cleaning up the trash and debris within a three block radius of their home. The grant will provide the items needed such as a rolling card, a trash grabber, trash bags, and other sundries needed to fulfill this volunteer position. This program is city wide and is constantly working to recruit new volunteers.

#### **Northwest Aurora Neighborhood Organization**

**Requested Amount: \$1,300 Recommended Funding: \$1,300**

Several Residents of the Northwest Aurora Neighborhood Organization (NANO) will design and put up a Little Free Library in their yard and ask for neighbors to contribute to donating books.

#### **Parkway Condo at Del Mar Homeowners Association**

**Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$5,000**

The Parkway Condominiums at Del Mar will continue with much needed tree trimming and removal around their condominiums. They have already consulted with a licensed tree company who have advised them about the neediest trees.

### **Ward II**

#### **East Middle School Community Garden**

**Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$5,000**

The Community Garden Committee at East Middle School will use these funds to build their community garden which will host plots used by community members and reserve plots that will be used by the school for teaching purposes.

#### **Murphy Creek Social Committee & Garden Club**

**Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$5,000**

The Murphy Creek Social Committee in collaboration with the Murphy Creek Garden Club will use these funds to purchase an anchored, cedar pergola to be installed with a bench and crusher fine material for the area inside of their community garden.

### **Ward III**

#### **Sun Ridge Patio Homes**

**Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$4,527**

The Sun Ridge Patio Homes would like to enhance the northwest corner of the entrance at South Eagle Circle and south Evanston Way by adding a new flower bed that would complement an existing flower bed on the southwest corner of their entrance.

#### **The Peninsula Homeowner's Association**

**Requested Amount: \$4,324 Recommended Funding: \$4,324**

The Peninsula HOA requested funds to repair, clean and stain their fence along Chambers Road.

#### **Lyn Knoll - Little Free Libraries**

**Requested Amount: \$3,196 Recommended Funding: \$1,148**

The Lyn Knoll neighbors will install 2 Little Free Libraries near each elementary school in their neighborhood, and each library will have sign holders so they can post information about future neighborhood events and/or meetings.

#### **Lyn Knoll - Clean Up Event**

**Requested Amount: \$1,800 Recommended Funding: Not Funded**

The Lyn Knoll neighbors proposed a cleanup day event where dumpsters would be placed in their neighborhood for any neighbor to use in an effort to maintain their community. This project was not recommended for funding due to the number of high quality applications that made a very competitive process. (Public Works did not support the dumpster placed in the street.)

#### **Lyn Knoll Neighborhood – Neighborhood ID Signs**

**Requested Amount: \$1,900 Recommended Funding: Not Funded**

The Lyn Knoll neighbors proposed the installation of 2 more neighborhood ID signs to be placed on the south-west corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Potomac and the south-east corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Del Mar Circle. Each sign would also have landscaping or rocks to add to the enhancement of those corners. This project was not recommended for funding due to the number of high quality applications that made a very competitive process. (Permission from Xcel Energy was not obtained.)

### **Ward IV**

#### **Village East Neighborhood**

**Requested Amount: \$2,000 Recommended Funding: \$2,000**

The Village East Voluntary Neighborhood Association project is for a neighborhood clean-up day with roll-offs and community-building.

#### **Greenbriar Townhomes**

**Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$3,000**

The Greenbriar Townhomes community requested funds to create an alternative to replacing their fence. The proposed grant included replacing a minor retaining wall, planting trees and enhance landscaping along Asbury Street.

**Sunstone North Neighborhood****Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$5,000**

The Sunstone North proposed to replace the existing neighborhood ID sign at the entry to their community and host an unveiling event that would bring residents together. During this event they would have activities for kids including painting a flower pot and planting seeds for the front porch of their home.

**Eastridge Civic Association****Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: Not Funded**

Eastridge Civic Association proposed a continuation of their grant which included a metal art installation and wrapping the utility boxes with art from a local artist. This project was not recommended for funding due to the number of high quality applications that made a very competitive process. (Several residents contacted staff not supporting this project.)

**Nome-Newark Neighborhood ID sign****Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: Not Funded**

The Nome-Newark neighbors requested funding for a neighborhood ID sign and landscaping in an existing median at the entry of their neighborhood. This project was not recommended for funding due to the number of high quality applications that made a very competitive process. (PROS staff did not support this median project.)

**Fairway 16****Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: Not Funded**

Fairway 16 requested funding to replace and enhance an existing neighborhood ID sign to match a sign that was previously funded through the Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program. This project was not recommended for funding due to the number of high quality applications that made a very competitive process.

**Brandy Chase Condominiums****Requested Amount: \$3,806 Recommended Funding: Not Funded**

Brandy Chase proposed installing new landscaping and fencing between a parking area and the street. This project was not recommended for funding due to the number of high quality applications that made a very competitive process.

**Ward V****Heather Gardens HOA – Green Team Committee****Requested Amount: \$4,081 Recommended Funding: \$1,251**

The Heather Gardens Green Team requested implementation of a three-month trial program (August, September and October, 2018) to explore an innovative process for recycling dog waste. This new process involves composting of collected pet waste, which emerges as a

marketable potting soil and compost for plants. This replicable opportunity explores the composting of dog waste in Bio-Bags as an alternative to disposal of this waste in landfills.

**Lakeshore HOA**

**Requested Amount: \$4,814 Recommended Funding: \$2,500**

Lakeshore requested this project to landscape “A mountain style (water conservation) oasis” at the NWC of Tower and Telluride, which is a gateway to the new Central Recreation Facility.

**Meadowood Neighborhood Association**

**Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$2,500**

Meadowood Neighborhood requested this project is to assist with the creation and installation of 9 “Meadowood Neighborhood” ID signs around the boundaries of this voluntary community (Eagle Street, Yale Avenue, Buckley Road and Hampden Avenue).

**Second Timbers HOA**

**Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$2,500**

Second Timbers HOA proposed this project to provide landscape along the Chambers Road perimeter north of Hampden Circle between the sidewalk and the Second Timbers HOA Parking lot (on the West side of Chambers Road).

**Tower Ridge II HOA**

**Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$1,250**

Tower Ridge II requested this project to upgrade landscape (and remove old bushes) surrounding their unique existing Neighborhood ID signs on the corners of Tower and Cornell and Tower and Dartmouth.

**Ward VI**

**Hampden Hills/Highpoint Neighborhood**

**Requested Amount: \$4,500 Recommended Funding: \$4,500**

Hampden Hills/Highpoint requested this project to provide neighborhood ID signage at the NEC and SEC of Reservoir Road and Celyon Street. These neighborhoods are voluntary associations and applicant received preliminary approval from private landowners to place signs on their respective properties.

**Inspiration HOA**

**Requested Amount: \$2,675 Recommended Funding: \$1,000**

Inspiration HOA proposed to place Little Free Libraries throughout their relatively new neighborhood to promote community spirit and encourage literacy.

**Mission Viejo Neighborhood**

**Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$1,000**

Mission Viejo requested funding to complete the landscape phasing of the east side of the Chambers Road Perimeter, between Hampden Circle and Quincy Avenue that this voluntary neighborhood has been installing for several years.

**Saddleridge Golf Course HOA**

**Requested Amount: \$3,990 Recommended Funding: \$2,500**

Saddleridge Golf Course HOA proposed this project to complete the multi-year/multi-phased entryway and median landscape project on Arapahoe Road and So. Rome Court. This was initiated to correct a safety issue and improve the access to the community and done in conjunction with the city's Engineering Division.

**Seville Townhome Association**

**Requested Amount: \$5,000 Recommended Funding: \$1,000**

Seville Townhome Association asked for this project to beautify the east side of Kalispell between Hampden Avenue and Mission Parkway, including removing old and unhealthy plant material, grading, irrigating, laying fabric and planting landscape material and placing rocks along this perimeter.