

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 17, 2025
1:33 P.M.
Board Chambers (Webstreamed)

In Attendance: Director L. Melanson Chair
 Director S. McLean Vice Chair
 Director J. Perrino City of Nanaimo

Also in Attendance: J. Birch A/Gen. Mgr. Corporate & Transportation Services
 T. Moore Chief Financial Officer
 S. Patrickson Committee Clerk
 S. Keizer Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair respectfully acknowledged the Coast Salish Nations on whose traditional territory this meeting took place.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the following minutes be adopted:

Community Grants Committee Meeting - June 17, 2024

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were received for information:

Community Grants Committee Terms of Reference

Community Grants Policy A1-30

REPORTS

2025 Community Grants

It was moved and seconded to receive the 2025 Community Grants report for information purposes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was moved and seconded that the Community Grants Application Form be amended to include the maximum grant amount and a requirement to provide the last five years of grants received from the Regional District of Nanaimo and whether reporting has been completed for the receipt of each grant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Applications for Community Grants

Chair Melanson passed the Chair to Vice Chair McLean for item 7.2.8 Extension and District Recreation Commission, citing a conflict of interest.

Chair Melanson resumed the Chair for item 7.2.9 Gabriola Songs Society dba Gabriola Theatre Centre.

RECESS: 2:28 P.M.

RECONVENE: 2:34 P.M.

It was moved and seconded that the Board consider "Whalers Football Support Society - \$10,000 Requested", on its own merits, separately from the Community Grants program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was moved and seconded that the Board award the following grants:

Arrowsmith Health Care Foundation - To create a covered outdoor event space to invite various community groups and programs to engage with those who are no longer able to venture out into the greater community	\$5,000
Arrowsmith Naturalists - To attend various farmers markets across Oceanside (particularly in Errington) to provide information on the importance of pollinators and their decline in the area, as well as to offer potted plants and educational materials	\$500
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Vancouver Island - To provide supplies for the In School/Teen In School Mentoring Program such as art, food, cooking, sports supplies, and to purchase 4 new chairs for the boardroom for meetings	\$3,200
Cedar Community Hall Association - To purchase and install additional heat pumps to support the hall during extreme weather conditions, when the hall hosts large groups	\$10,000
Coastal Invasive Species Committee Society - To support the delivery of the Central Island Invasive Species Partnership's Programs in the Regional District of Nanaimo including the Education and Awareness Program and the Field Program	\$3,800

Errington Preschool Parents Society - To purchase art supplies and outdoor play equipment	\$4,000
Extension and District Recreation Commission - To replace chairs in the community hall	\$3,000
Gabriola Songs Society dba Gabriola Theatre Centre - To purchase a Square Terminal, register and drape kits	\$2,752.18
Jananco Hobby Workshop Association - To purchase batting for quilt donations, materials for an adjustable woodworking table and upgrade lapidary equipment	\$2,850
Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Society - To enhance programming at the 2026 Brant Wildlife Festival aimed at youth and family participation and engagement	\$5,000
Nanaimo Art Gallery - To support the summer public engagement and outreach programming to expand into the Regional District of Nanaimo, specifically tied to an exhibition, "League Nanaimo", by Germaine Koh	\$6,000
Nanaimo Community Kitchens Society - To expand the Cooking Out of the Box program to offer more free workshops that build food skills, promote healthy eating, and foster community connection	\$4,500
Nanaimo Foodshare - To purchase, install and maintain mobility mats to improve accessibility along the main access routes at Park Avenue Farm	\$3,474
Oceanside Building Learning Together Society - To support the WOW Bus Program in delivering the Strong Start Program for Qualicum School District 69 by upgrading play equipment and other supplies	\$3,300
Oceanside Minor Softball Association - To host the 2025 U15B Provincial Championship in Nanaimo and purchase equipment for the new Umpire training program	\$10,000
Pacific Coast Stage Company - To purchase a portable sound system (sound system, mixer board and microphones) to be used at the outdoor venue Shelby Station to increase visibility for local artists and provide engaging cultural experiences for the public	\$5,552.97
PQB Fruit Tree Project - To purchase a used but reliable pickup truck to haul garden tools, ladders, and the farmers market supplies	\$4,000
Take a Hike Youth Mental Health Foundation - To support the Take a Hike Nanaimo Program's land-based learning in 2025-2026, providing up to 24 youth with barrier free access to weekly outdoor trips and multi-day wilderness expeditions	\$8,000
The HOPE Centre (Verstraete Evangelistic Association) - To replace outdated fluorescent lighting with LED lighting	\$4,714.28

Women of Influence Nanaimo/Footprints Infertility & Pregnancy Loss Support Society - Funding to assist with the third annual Women of Influence Nanaimo (WIN) Awards Gala to cover venue fees, audio and visual equipment, and logistical requirements \$3,000

TOTAL **\$92,643.43**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved and seconded that reporting for previous grants be provided by December 31, 2025, and that 2025 grant funds not be distributed until all previous years reporting is up to date.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TIME: 2:50 P.M.

CHAIR