



**RECREATION AND CULTURE
SERVICES
MEMORANDUM**

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TO: MAYOR A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: C. GILLARD, MANAGER OF RECREATION AND CULTURE BUSINESS SERVICES

NOTED: D. BELL, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND CULTURE SERVICES

D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: CHANGE TO THE COMMUNITY RECREATION & SPORT GRANT ADJUDICATION PANEL (24-G-145)

DATE: JUNE 4, 2024

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with additional information in response to discussion at the General Committee meeting of May 29th regarding Staff Report REC001-24 Recreation and Sport Grant Adjudication Process.

The City of Barrie Community Recreation and Sport Grant has historically been adjudicated by a panel comprised of five interdepartmental staff members. This approach has ensured a consistent review process that ties decisions for funding into Council's strategic priorities of a Thriving Community and Responsible Governance and Recreation and Culture's strategic plan; however, it has also limited the diversity of perspectives and community involvement in the decision-making process.

To enhance transparency, community engagement, and inclusiveness, the adjudication panel will be transitioned to a hybrid model of City staff and community members, should the General Committee recommendation be approved, as follows: Director, Recreation and Culture Services, a representative from Economic and Creative Development, a representative from Tourism Barrie, and two community representatives.

To enhance community engagement, equity, and inclusiveness, the Director of Recreation and Culture and City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services would recruit the community members for the adjudication panel based on applicants' subject matter expertise and their ability to demonstrate competencies in the following key areas:

- Experience in community recreation or sport
- Knowledge of grant management, administration, or adjudication
- Demonstrated commitment to equity, inclusiveness, and diversity
- Financial experience
- Community leadership experience
- Understanding of community needs
- Arms-length position

These changes will take effect upon Council approval in time to implement for the 2024 application window.



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In consideration of further changes to the composition of the adjudication process for the Recreation and Sport Community Grant in 2025, staff in the Recreation and Culture Department will examine in more detail the grant processes and models of other municipalities.

A brief overview of select Southern Ontario municipalities that support their communities with in-house grant funding reveals that the composition of adjudication panels is varied as outlined in the following table:

Municipality	Grant Type	Adjudication Panel Composition
Barrie (current)	Sector/Service specific: Recreation & Sport	City Staff
Barrie (proposed)	Sector/Service specific: Recreation & Sport	Hybrid – City staff and community members
Guelph	Community/City-wide grants to support community goals (\$15,000 maximum per organization)	Community Grant Working Group of 10 residents
Hamilton	Sector/Service specific: Sport & Active Lifestyles	City Staff
Markham	Sports, Culture & Community Events/Programs	City Staff
Orillia	1. General Grants Program 2. Cultural Festivals & Events Program	Committee of Council (4 members)
Richmond Hill	Community & Cultural Grant	Hybrid – City staff and community members
Toronto	Various grant programs	By Toronto Arts Council (community members)