

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Motion to Approve Neighborhood Mini-Grant Funding for the Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office/Community Services Division
PRESENTED BY:	Rob Beem, Community Services Division Manager Nora Smith, Neighborhood Coordinator
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

As established in Resolution No. 54, the annual City budget includes funding for Neighborhood Mini-Grants and City Council approval is required. One Neighborhood Mini-Grant is currently proposed for City Council approval.

Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Associations is requesting \$3,942 to create a community art project, facilitated by a professional artist, at the Sunset Elementary School site. The proposal is for a "pARTy at Sunset" which will be a creative, fun-filled, one-day community celebration to bring neighbors together and to make tangible improvements to the Sunset site. The centerpiece of the event will be a community-created art project that will be installed at Sunset to make it a more attractive community gathering place and remind residents of the common long-term vision for the site. The goal of this art installation would be to maintain community interest and sense of ownership in the Sunset site, as envisioned in the Sunset School Park Master Plan, adopted by City Council on July 26, 2010.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

City Council authorized \$20,000 in the 2011 budget to fund Neighborhood Mini-Grants. This is the second 2011 Neighborhood Mini-Grant submitted for approval. The requested funding budget for this project is \$3,942; the project budget is included in Attachment A. Assuming approval of this grant, the remaining Neighborhood Mini-Grant budget will be \$13,508.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council approve \$3,942 in Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds to Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association for a community art project at Sunset School site.

Approved By: City Manager *JM* City Attorney _____

INTRODUCTION

Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association is requesting Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds to coordinate a community art project on Saturday, September 10 at the Sunset School Site in the Richmond Highlands Neighborhood. The proposed Sunset Park "pARTy" implements and celebrates some small projects to encourage community use of the site and discourage vandalism.

BACKGROUND

Neighborhood Mini-Grant Background: Resolution No. 54 established the Neighborhood Mini-Grant program, with the process and administration of the funds to be handled by Neighborhoods staff. The allocation of the total funds available is determined from year to year by appropriation of the City Council. All such grants to individual neighborhood associations are governed by rules approved by the City Council on October 7, 1996 and amended on November 23, 1998. Grants must be approved by City Council prior to their implementation.

The Neighborhood Mini-Grant program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to each of the actively organized, qualifying neighborhood associations in the City of Shoreline on a first come, first served basis. Neighborhood Associations are required to provide a dollar for dollar match to Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds. A match may be generated from co-sponsoring groups, businesses, organizations, schools, media, in-kind donations and/or "sweat equity".

Neighborhood Mini-Grant project categories include the following:

- Projects that create or enhance a tangible improvement in the neighborhood;
- Projects that disseminate information and increase awareness of the goals and mission of the neighborhood association to the neighborhood community;
- Projects that directly benefit a public agency or organization and its immediate neighborhood, and that require the active involvement of both the public agency and members of the neighborhood in planning and carrying out the program.

The project meets the goals of the Neighborhood Mini-Grant program by making tangible improvements to the Sunset School site, involving Boy Scouts, the School District and neighborhood volunteers, and raising awareness of the Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association.

Sunset Park Background: At the end of the 2006-2007 school year the Shoreline School District closed Sunset Elementary School because of declining school enrollments.

Following the school closure there was growing interest within the community as to the future use of the former Sunset school site and adjacent open space. This interest led to the creation of a citizens group called "Friends of Sunset Park." This grassroots Shoreline citizen group was formed to support the development of a community park and gathering place at the former school site. Funds were raised within the local

community. A contract with the Pomegranate Center, a professional design firm specializing in community involvement processes, was funded by the City and the Friends of Sunset Park to create a "community-owned" concept plan for the former school site and Boeing Creek Open Space.

More than 400 residents participated in a series of visioning meetings and workshops. A document was created that summarizes the community visioning process and depicts the Master Site Plans for both sites. The Sunset School Master Plan was adopted by Council on July 26, 2010.

Sunset Park "pARTy" Proposal: Since June 2010, the City, the School District, and the Friends of Sunset Park have worked to identify and pursue a variety of funding options to begin implementing the Master Plan. However, the current economic climate and the resulting dramatic budget shortfalls at the city, county and state levels have made it very challenging to secure significant funding to implement any major portion of this project in the near future.

The Friends of Sunset Park and Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association recognize that to ensure long term success, it is important to maintain momentum and demonstrate to the community that there is forward movement.

This Neighborhood Mini-Grant proposal is for a success project that will signal to the community that the plan they created with such enthusiasm and dedication is still alive and possible. Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association proposes a "pARTy at Sunset" which will be a creative, fun-filled, one-day community celebration to bring neighbors together and to make tangible improvements to the Sunset site. The centerpiece of the event will be a community-created art project that will be installed at Sunset to make it a more attractive community gathering place and remind residents of the common long-term vision for the site.

"It's a pARTy at Sunset" will include several elements:

- Before the September 10 pARTy, community volunteers will make several improvements to the site that are part of the Master Plan approved last spring. This would include a community work party to paint playground stencils (basketball court, four-square, hopscotch, a shuffleboard, and a US map) on the existing blacktop to enhance play, and two local Eagle Scouts to build an information kiosk and bench at the site.
- Hire an artist experienced at facilitating community-created art to work with a community art panel of five to seven people to determine a community project, and organize its creation at the pARTy and its installation afterwards. Two ideas have emerged from our discussions: a mural and a fence collage. The costs included in the proposed budget would cover either project.
- The selected project will be designed to last at least five to seven years and installed so that if the building is demolished and the development moves forward, it can either remain where it is or be moved to a new location on the site.
- The pARTy will bring neighbors together to enjoy music by local adult and student performance groups, share simple food, play at the Sunset site,

celebrate the improvements made over the summer, and participate in the creation of the community art project. .

This idea was presented at the May 22 Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association meeting for input and received approval. The Shoreline School District has provided a letter of support for this project.

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

Over several years, the Friends of Sunset Park solicited the involvement of both the City of Shoreline and the Shoreline School District to create a vision for the former Sunset Elementary School site. In October 2009 both the City and the District adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining their roles and responsibilities in support of the planning effort. The public visioning process undertaken in 2010 was well publicized, and well attended by over 400 Shoreline citizens.

COUNCIL GOAL(S) ADDRESSED

The visioning and master planning process around the Sunset School site is a model of public engagement identified in Council Goal 5 "Expand opportunities for effective citizen communication and community engagement." Through a series of four facilitated public meetings in 2010, including one design workshop, over 400 Shoreline residents participated in creating a vision for how to use the Sunset School site and connect it to Boeing Creek Open Space.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

City Council authorized \$20,000 in the 2011 budget to fund Neighborhood Mini-Grants. This is the second 2011 Neighborhood Mini-Grant submitted for approval. The request is for \$3,942. Assuming approval of this grant, the remaining Neighborhood Mini-Grant budget will be \$13,508.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council approve \$3,942 in Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds to Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association for a community art project at Sunset School site.

ATTACHMENTS

- A – Sunset pARTy Budget
- B – Letter of Support from the Shoreline School District

**Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Associations
2011 Mini-Grant Project Budget
Sunset pARTy Project**

<u>Item</u>		<u>Cost*</u>
Food & Beverages for pARTy Event (wholesale)	Bon Appétit Catering	\$ 750
Porta-potty Rental (1)	United Site Services	\$ 158
Trash Removal	Roy's Hauling	\$ 100
Community Artist	RFQ Selection process	\$2,500
Community Art Project Supplies (for either mural or fence collage)	Home Depot	\$ 434
Total Mini-Grant Request		\$3,942

* Estimated costs include tax and may be adjusted based on final pricing.

Other Project Costs, Provided as Neighborhood Match

<u>Match Item</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
Materials	
Playground stencils provided by Shoreline School District	\$1,100
Stencil paint provided by Shoreline School District	\$ 135
Materials for Eagle Scout kiosk and park bench projects donated by local hardware and lumber stores	\$ 550
Volunteers*	
Event Committee to plan event (8 people/15 hrs. ea)	\$1,800
Community work party to paint playground stencils (6 people/3 hrs. ea.)	\$ 270
Community art panel (5 people/10 hrs. ea.)	\$ 750
Event Volunteers (20 people/2 hrs. ea.)	\$ 600
Scout Volunteer to build kiosk and bench (50 hrs/ea. project)	\$1,500
Grant research and preparation (20 hrs)	\$ 300
Cash	
Friends of Sunset Park (up to this amount if needed)	\$ 500
ESTIMATED TOTAL VALUE OF MATCH:	\$7,505

*In addition, the goal of the event is to engage 150 residents at the pARTy to make the community art piece.

Project Match

The Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association proposes, in conjunction with Friends of Sunset Park, to provide project match for the Mini-Grant by providing all event planning, coordination and implementation. The Association will provide coordination with Shoreline School District, and management of all volunteer efforts.

This project will rely on neighborhood volunteers for planning, setting up, running and breaking down the event. In addition, volunteers will serve on the community art panel. Currently there are seven community volunteers actively working on this project. Additional volunteers will be recruited through the Richmond Highlands email list, a post card mailing, the Friends of Sunset Park email list, website and Facebook page, the Shoreline School District newsletters, Shoreline Area News, Shoreline Community College Daily, local church bulletins, the senior center newsletter and through door-to-door/neighbor-to-neighbor recruitment. We will also recruit community college and Shoreline student volunteers through organizations like SERVE and National Honor Society at the high school. This represents over \$3,400 value of volunteer labor.



Attachment B

Board of Directors

Deborah Ehrlichman

Mike Jacobs

Maren Norton

Richard Potter

David Wilson

Susanne Walker

Superintendent

Secretary to the Board

June 2, 2011

Mayor Keith McGlashan
City of Shoreline
17500 Midvale Ave. N.
Shoreline, WA 98133

Dear Mayor McGlashan:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Shoreline School District in support of the Richmond Highlands Neighborhood Association's request for a Neighborhood Mini-Grant to hold a community celebration and make improvements at the Sunset site, including painting playground stencils, adding an information kiosk and bench, and installing a community-created art project at the site.

The Shoreline School District, along with the City of Shoreline, has worked collaboratively with the Friends of Sunset Park throughout the visioning process for the Sunset School Park. We have seen the passion and enthusiasm for this project of a community space on the site of the old Sunset Elementary School. We would like to see this vision continue. A Shoreline Neighborhood Mini-Grant would be a positive step towards that goal.

The Shoreline School District and the City of Shoreline have a long history of working together for the betterment of the Shoreline community as a whole. This project would be another example of strengthening our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Walker", written in a cursive style.

Sue Walker
Superintendent

This page intentionally left blank.