

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Approval of Briarcrest Neighborhood Association Mini-Grant Project
DEPARTMENT: Communications & Intergovernmental Relations
PRESENTED BY: Joyce Nichols, C/IR Director

PROBLEM / ISSUE STATEMENT:

The Briarcrest Neighborhood Association is requesting \$5,000 in 2005 Mini-Grant funds for two projects: 1) to repair damage from vandalism to the neighborhood kiosk built with 1998 Mini-Grant funds and 2) to plant in the parking strip along 25th Ave NE adjacent to Hamlin Park parking lot.

The neighborhood information kiosk was installed seven years ago as part of a 1998 Mini-Grant. The kiosk contains a lighted bulletin board inside a locked case that was damaged by vandalism. The lighted bulletin board serves as a posting board to advertise neighborhood activities and events. The Briarcrest Neighborhood Association is requesting Mini-Grant funds to replace the locked and lighted case with updated Lexan materials which are vandal-resistant, and to replace the bulletin board inside. The kiosk structure that the bulletin board hangs on and the bench attached to it are in good condition and need only graffiti removal and re-staining, not structural repair.

The second part of this grant is a request for funds for plants and mulch to beautify the planting strip on 25th Ave NE which runs approximately two blocks from NE 160th Street to NE 158th Street. The plants will be attractive, low growing, drought tolerant ground covers and natives appropriate to the planting strip.

The proposed projects have been reviewed by the Parks Recreation and Cultural Services department and the department has written a letter supporting the projects.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

City Council authorized \$30,000 in the 2005 budget to fund Neighborhood Mini-Grants. This is the fourth 2005 Mini-Grant submitted for approval. The project budget is included in Attachment A.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council approve \$5,000 in Mini-Grant funds for the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association to repair the neighborhood kiosk and install plants along 25th Ave NE.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney _____

INTRODUCTION

The Briarcrest Neighborhood Association has completed the application process for \$5,000 to carry out two neighborhood improvement projects. The first project would rehabilitate the neighborhood information kiosk that has been vandalized and the second project would plant in the empty parking strip adjacent to the kiosk. The goal of the repair project is to make the information kiosk useable again for posting Neighborhood Association information and publications by replacing the lighted, locked case containing the bulletin board, which would facilitate increasing awareness of the goals and mission the Neighborhood Association. The goal of the planting project is to improve the neighborhood by beautifying 25th Ave NE between NE 160th and NE 158th at the Hamlin Park parking lot.

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 Mini-Grant program provides equal grants of up to \$5,000 to each of the active organized, qualifying neighborhood associations in the City of Shoreline. Neighborhood associations are required to match Mini-Grant funds. A match may be generated from co-sponsoring groups, businesses, organizations, schools, media, in-kind donations and/or "sweat equity".

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.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

The goals of the Briarcrest Mini-Grant are to improve the appearance of the neighborhood and communicate information to the community.

The first project would provide funds to rehabilitate the neighborhood information kiosk which has been vandalized. After removing damaged materials, a new vandal-proof lighted bulletin board will be installed, graffiti will be removed and the bench will be stained. The second project would purchase soil, plants and bark for neighborhood volunteers to install plants in the two block planting strip along the Hamlin Park parking lot on 25th Ave NE for two blocks from NE 160th Street to NE 158th Street.

Both projects will provide volunteer match for the grant in the form of "sweat equity", cleaning up the kiosk, removing graffiti, staining the bench on the kiosk, preparing soil, installing plants in the parking strip and watering the plants during the first summer. Neighborhood volunteers will provide match with professional services including landscape design for the plantings and electrical installation of the lighted bulletin board. After the first summer, upkeep of the planting strip will be incorporated into the regular duties of Parks maintenance staff.

The Briarcrest Neighborhood Association has successfully completed other Mini-Grant projects, including the original installation of the neighborhood information kiosk with 1998 Mini-Grant funds and street tree plantings on 25th Ave NE with 2000 Mini-Grant funds.

These proposed projects meet the Mini-Grant program goals of enhancing the neighborhood with a tangible improvement and increasing awareness of the mission of the neighborhood association in the community.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council approve \$5,000 in Mini-Grant funds for the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association to repair the neighborhood kiosk and install plants along 25th Ave NE.

ATTACHMENTS

- A - Briarcrest Mini-Grant Budget
- B - Letter of support from Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
- C - Photo of kiosk and planting strip

**Briarcrest Neighborhood Association
2005 Mini-Grant Project Budget
Kiosk Repair and for Plantings at Hamlin Park on 25th Ave NE**

<u>Project / Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
New lighted hinged bulletin board case 60" x 36" with lexan doors	
Design, fabrication, shipping and tax	\$2, 209
Stain, brushes, sandpaper, etc for graffiti removal, bench staining	<u>\$ 150</u>
<i>Cost for kiosk repair, including tax</i>	\$2,359
Plants, soil, mulch, including tax (proposed list includes kinnickinick, Oregon grape, nootka rose)	\$2,441
Right-of-Way Permit for planting	<u>\$ 200</u>
<i>Cost for planting, including tax and R-O-W permit</i>	2,641
Total Project Cost	\$5,000

Project Match

The Briarcrest Neighborhood Association proposes to provide project match for its Mini-Grant through "sweat equity". Materials for the replacement lighted bulletin board will be designed and fabricated by the original vendor. Volunteers will provide the labor to repair the kiosk, install the new lighted bulletin board, clean up graffiti and stain the kiosk bench. Volunteers will also prepare the parking strip and install the new plants, and water the plantings over the first summer. Neighbors with specialized skills will also donate professional landscape design services and electrical installation services.



City of Shoreline

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10/19/05

Dear Office of Neighborhoods:

The City of Shoreline's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department has reviewed Briarcrest Neighborhood Association's mini-grant proposal. The proposal would install plant materials along Hamlin Park's parking lot on 25th Ave NE and make repairs to the kiosk which the neighborhood association installed with a previous mini-grant.

The new plant materials would make a valuable addition to the park and to the Briarcrest neighborhood. Currently the Park Maintenance Department maintains this area adjacent to the park (please see the attached photos and map).

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department appreciates Briarcrest Neighborhood Association's volunteerism and endorses their efforts. We look forward to the final review of the planting scheme for this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

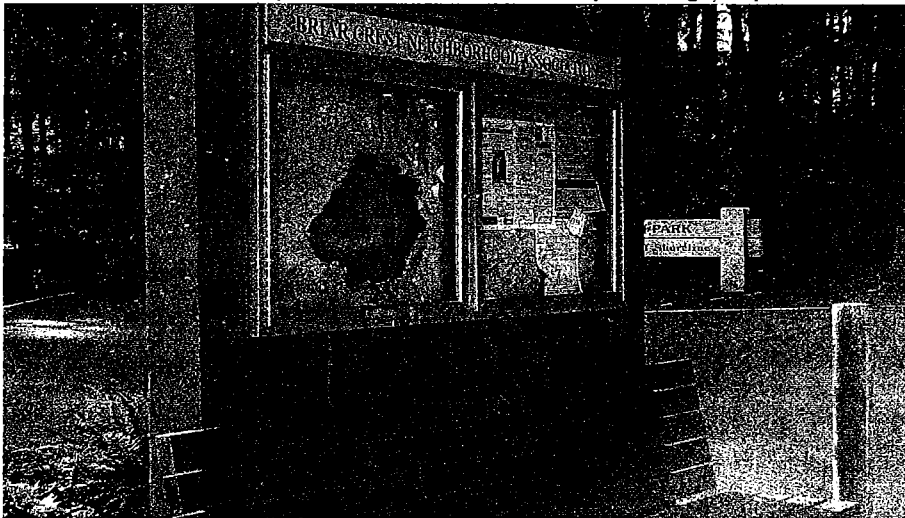
Thank you,

Kirk Peterson
Park Superintendent

CC: Dick Deal, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director



BRIARCREST IMPROVEMENTS SITE
25th Ave NE, looking south, at Hamlin Park Lot, NE 160th
Planting strip on the left, kiosk on the right
Mini-Grant: plant for two blocks in planting strip



BRIARCREST KIOSK
25th Ave NE at Hamlin Park Lot
Mini-Grant: replace lighted bulletin board, clean up graffiti