

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Approval of Meridian Park Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Mini-Grant
DEPARTMENT:	Community Services Division, City Manager's Office
PRESENTED BY:	Rob Beem, Community Services Division Manager Nora Smith, Neighborhood Coordinator

PROBLEM / ISSUE STATEMENT:

The Meridian Park Neighborhood Association is requesting \$3,100 in 2008 Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds for three separate projects. The first project is producing signs to raise neighborhood awareness of the newly rejuvenated Meridian Park Neighborhood Association. The addition two projects are improvement projects at Ronald Bog Park and Meridian Park Elementary School. The goal of the improvement projects is to beautify the path to the new City Hall.

The first project is to purchase four A-board signs and one banner to publicize neighborhood events and meetings for a cost of \$910.

The second project is to improve the west side of Ronald Bog along Meridian Avenue North. This work will entail removing blackberries and planting native species. The cost of this project is \$1690.

The third project is to buy and install plants and bark at Meridian Park Elementary where a community work party cleared out dead plants in the most visible planting beds in Spring 2008. This project will cost \$500.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

City Council authorized \$20,000 in the 2008 budget to fund Neighborhood Mini-Grants. This is the fourth 2008 Neighborhood Mini-Grant submitted for approval. The project budget is included in Attachment A.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council approve \$3,100 in Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds for the Meridian Park Neighborhood Association to accomplish one sign project and two neighborhood improvement projects.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney _____

INTRODUCTION

The Meridian Park Neighborhood Association is requesting \$3,100 to purchase signs, plants and material for three neighborhood projects. The first project to purchase four A-board signs and one banner will help publicize activities and meetings undertaken by the Neighborhood Association. In spring 2008 the neighborhood association began to meet for the first time in several years; signs will help raise awareness about the activities of the re-established group.

The other two projects provide tangible improvements to the neighborhood. One project will involve neighborhood volunteers removing blackberries at Ronald Bog along the west side bordering Meridian Avenue North. The Neighborhood Association project lead is working with city staff in the departments of Planning and Development Services and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to clarify requirements and approvals which will be in place before work is initiated.

The second improvement project would follow up on yard maintenance work by volunteers in May 2008 as part of the Embrace Shoreline Schools initiative. The grant request is to purchase plants and bark to replant one or two beds cleaned out in May.

Meridian Park Neighborhood Association is initiating the improvement projects to raise civic pride in the neighborhood, recognizing that NE 175th will lead to the new City Hall.

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 active organized, qualifying neighborhood associations in the City of Shoreline. Neighborhood associations are required to match 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.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Meridian Park Neighborhood Association is requesting approval for a \$3,100 Neighborhood Mini-Grant to purchase signs and complete two improvement projects. The goal of the Meridian Park Neighborhood Mini-Grant is to create tangible improvements in the neighborhood and raise awareness of the neighborhood association activities.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council approve \$3,100 in Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds for the Meridian Park Neighborhood Association to accomplish two neighborhood improvement projects and one sign project.

ATTACHMENTS

A – Meridian Park Neighborhood Association 2008 Neighborhood Mini-Grant Budget

**Meridian Park Neighborhood Association
2008 Mini-Grant Project Budget**

<u>Project / Item</u>	<u>Cost*</u>
<i>Project 1 Neighborhood Signs</i>	
(4) A-board signs 4 @ \$155	\$ 620
(4) Cable & lock sets (to prevent sign theft) 4 @ \$ 42	\$ 168
(1) Banner (2' x 6')	<u>\$ 122</u>
Total Project Cost	\$ 910
 <i>Project 2 Ronald Bog Stewardship</i>	
Plants for Ronald Bog**	\$ 990
Dump fees for invasive species removed	\$ 600
Supplies (leather gloves, bags, miscellaneous)	<u>\$ 100</u>
Total Project Cost	\$1,690
 <i>Project 3 Meridian Park Elementary Plantings</i>	
Plants and bark for Meridian Park Elementary	<u>\$ 500</u>
Total Project Cost	\$ 500
 Total Mini-Grant request	 \$3,100

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

** Any money for plants not spent at Ronald Bog will be used for plants at Meridian Park Elementary.

Project Match

The group proposes to provide a volunteer match in the form of "sweat equity" to remove invasive species, replant natives and water plants at Ronald Bog, plant and mulch beds at Meridian Park Elementary and coordinate sign design. The match includes Meridian Park residents who are Master Gardeners and a professional landscaper who will volunteer his own time and his crew.