

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

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

PROBLEM / ISSUE STATEMENT:

As established in Resolution 54, the City budgets annually for Neighborhood Mini-Grants and City Council approval is required. Three Neighborhood Mini-Grants are proposed for City Council approval.

Ballinger Neighborhood Association is requesting \$3,000 to host a summer outdoor movie night at Aldercrest Annex as a community-building event.

Meridian Park Neighborhood Association is requesting \$1,850 to install two benches on the west side of Ronald Bog along Meridian Avenue North and plant native species as a continuation of 2008 neighborhood-led Ronald Bog native plant restoration.

The Richmond Beach Community Association is requesting \$5,000 to rent equipment and pay facility costs for its community Halloween Carnival the last weekend in October at Syre Elementary School.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

City Council authorized \$20,000 in the 2009 budget to fund Neighborhood Mini-Grants. These are the first three 2009 Neighborhood Mini-Grant submitted for approval. The budgets for these projects total \$9,850 and are included in Attachments A, B and C.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council approve \$9,850 in Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds to Ballinger Neighborhood Association, Meridian Park Neighborhood Association and Richmond Beach Community Association

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney _____

INTRODUCTION

Ballinger Neighborhood Association is requesting Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds to produce an outdoor movie night in early August at Aldercrest Annex. Ballinger Neighborhood Association faces a challenge in creating community cohesion due to the geography of a large bisecting arterial, and the combination of commercial, multi-family residential and single family residential make up.

An outdoor movie night is designed to provide free, family friendly entertainment to build community spirit and raise awareness of the neighborhood association. The event will start with an inclusive activity, proposed to be community drumming, and culminate in a family-friendly feature film on the big screen. Ballinger Neighborhood Association (BALNA) has received permission from Shoreline School District to use the Aldercrest Annex site and has met the district's insurance requirements.

Meridian Park Neighborhood Association is requesting funds for two projects which provide tangible improvements to the neighborhood at Ronald Bog. One project will install benches along Meridian Avenue North to allow the public to enjoy the new view of water and wildlife created by the 2008 Neighborhood Mini-Grant project which removed tens of yards of overgrown blackberries. The second project will engage neighborhood volunteers in the continued installation of native plants along the west side and north sides of the Bog. The Neighborhood Association project lead has worked 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.

Meridian Park Neighborhood Association is continuing these improvement projects to restore native species and to raise civic pride in the neighborhood, recognizing that NE 175th leads directly to the new City Hall.

The Richmond Beach Community Association is requesting \$5,000 to implement its annual community Halloween Carnival. The community association has committed approximately 700 hours in volunteer time as a match towards the project. This community event raises awareness of the community association and provides a family-oriented event for the neighborhood. Funds will be used to purchase materials for the event such as rental of inflatables, facility expenses, and materials storage.

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.

Ballinger Neighborhood Association (BALNA) has been working to establish a neighborhood identity for several years. In summer 2008 BALNA hosted, with support from local businesses, their first ever neighborhood-wide event: a neighborhood walk based out of Bruegger's Bog. It was clear from the number of families attending that there is a need for family-oriented activities, and therefore a movie night was conceived to meet that need. BALNA is seeking \$3,000 to host a free family movie night. The project meets the goals of the Neighborhood Mini-Grant program by enhancing awareness of the neighborhood association, providing a venue for talking to residents about the neighborhood group and connecting neighbors to each other.

BALNA has successfully completed one Neighborhood Mini-Grant, using 2005 funds for design and installation of roadside neighborhood identity signs and a banner and sandwich boards to publicize events and meetings.

Meridian Park Neighborhood Association initiated improvements to Meridian Park Elementary and Ronald Bog to improve the "entrance" to the new city hall with a 2008 Neighborhood Mini-Grant which beautified, removed invasives and planted natives.

The Neighborhood Mini-Grant proposed for 2009 would continue the work initiated in 2008. \$1,850 of the funds requested would purchase two benches, to be installed by Parks Maintenance, which would allow passersby to enjoy the new views of Ronald Bog and the turtles, otters, birds and wildlife visible at the Bog. The Mini-Grant request also includes \$1,000 to purchase additional native plant to be installed by volunteers, under the direction of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.

Meridian Park Neighborhood Association has successfully completed Neighborhood Mini-Grant projects in 1997 and 1998 installing playground equipment at Meridian Park Elementary and restoration and planting projects in 1999, 2001 and 2008 at Cromwell Park, Meridian Park and Ronald Bog, respectively.

Richmond Beach Community Association is seeking approval for a \$5,000 Mini-Grant to provide the annual neighborhood Halloween Carnival the last weekend in October. The project meets the goals of the Mini-Grant program by providing benefits to the neighborhood of increasing awareness of the neighborhood association and promoting active volunteer involvement with the Richmond Beach Community Association by local scout troops, families and community residents.

Richmond Beach Community Association has successfully completed other Mini-Grant projects including neighborhood signage in 2000, improvements to Richmond Beach Reserve Park in 2001 and the Community Carnival in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council approve \$9,850 in Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds to Ballinger Neighborhood Association, Meridian Park Neighborhood Association and Richmond Beach Community Association.

ATTACHMENTS

- A – Ballinger Neighborhood Mini-Grant Budget
- B – Meridian Park Mini-Grant Budget
- C – Richmond Beach Neighborhood Mini-Grant Budget

* Estimated costs include tax and may be adjusted based on final pricing.
Pre-event family entertainment may vary, depending on cost and availability.

The Ballinger Neighborhood Association proposes to provide project match for its Mini-Grant by providing all event planning, coordination and implementation. The Association will provide the following: coordination with Shoreline School District and vendors, drafting and designing all publicity (press release, mailer, poster, flyer), door-to-door flyer distribution, site cleanup and preparation, event set up, staffing and clean up.

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**Meridian Park Neighborhood Association
2009 Mini-Grant Project Budget
Ronald Bog Benches and Native Plants**

<u>Project / Item</u>	<u>Cost**</u>
Benches SiteLines Products	\$ 600
Plants for Ronald Bog** Local nurseries	\$1000
Supplies (leather gloves, bags, miscellaneous expenses)	<u>\$ 250</u>
Total Project Cost	\$1850

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

Project Match

The group proposes to provide a volunteer match in the form of “sweat equity” to plant natives and water plants (for the first two years) at Ronald Bog. Volunteer hours will also be contributed to plant at Cromwell Park once construction is complete in late 2009. The match includes Meridian Park residents who are Master Gardeners and professional landscapers who volunteer their time.

**Richmond Beach Community Association
2009 Mini-Grant Project Budget
Halloween Carnival**

<u>Project / Item</u>	<u>Cost*</u>
<i>Estimated costs based on previous years' expenses</i>	
Inflatable equipment Fun Rentals	\$1,800
Custodian, Facility fee, cook Shoreline School District	\$1,100
Storage of equipment and materials Armadillo Storage	\$1,700
Decorations and supplies	\$ 400
Total Project Cost	\$5,000

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

Project Match

The Richmond Beach Community Association proposes to provide match for its Mini-Grant through both "sweat equity" and paying for some of the supplies and costs of the carnival. The Association will provide the following on the project: coordinating and directing volunteers; working in the activity and game booths; design, preparation and distribution of advertisement flyers and signs; delivering information flyers to schools; building, setting up, decorating and taking down the haunted house; cleanup and hauling props and re-usable items to storage facility.

The total cost of the project is approximately \$8,490, of which \$5,000 would be Mini-Grant funds. The \$3,490 balance will be paid by the Richmond Beach Community Association.

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