

Date: 2023-11-29

Subject: **Neighbourhood Association Guide (RM 60/2022)**

Contact: Razmin Said, Manager, Community Safety & Well-Being Office

Report Number: Community Services-2023-985

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Razmin Said, Manager, Community Safety & Well-Being Office (CSWO) to the Committee of Council Meeting of November 29, 2023, re: **Neighbourhood Association Guide**, be received; and
2. That Council approve the final Neighbourhood Association Guide and the CSWO Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant; and
3. That the Commissioner, Community Services be delegated authority to approve funding recommendations and execute on behalf of the City any required grant agreements and other agreements and documents deemed necessary for implementing approved funding from the Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant beginning with the 2024 program year, on such terms and conditions as may be satisfactory to the Commissioner, Community Services or designate in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor or designate.

Overview:

- **In response to Referred Matter 60/2022 and motion C380-2022, the draft Neighbourhood Association Guide was developed as a tactic to empower residents to take action in their neighbourhoods and was approved by City Council on June 28, 2023.**
- **A Community Leaders Workshop took place following Council approval of the draft Neighbourhood Association Guide, to provide existing leaders and Neighbourhood groups the opportunity to collaborate in finalizing the guide and validate what the CSWO has learned through previous engagements.**

- **The Neighbourhood Association Guide includes a new source of community funding through the CSWO called the ‘Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant,’ for up to \$1,500, for the purpose of beautification and enhancing the safety of local neighbourhoods.**
- **The CSWO Community Safety Action Plan tactic of GeoHub Neighbourhood Profiles is linked to the Neighbourhood Association Guide and provides residents the opportunity to learn about and identify assets and features in their neighbourhoods, including successful projects completed through the Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant.**
- **The implementation of the Neighbourhood Association Guide and the Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant aligns with the Strategic Focus Area of Health & Well-being, focused on making positive impacts to citizen’s belonging, health, wellness, and safety.**

Background:

The CSWO aims to achieve an empowered and connected Brampton where everyone feels safe, has a sense of belonging, and has their needs met. Through the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Program survey data analysis (2018-2022) and the Community Leaders Workshop (August 19, 2023) the CSWO learned residents across Brampton want to enhance their neighbourhoods.

Understanding that safety and well-being is a collective responsibility, the Community Safety Action Plan (the Action Plan) tactic of the Neighborhood Association Guide and the newly developed Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant available through the CSWO highlights the commitment of the CSWO to work closely with residents, City staff, and community partners to enhance safety, share information, and take action. Beautification of local neighbourhoods is linked to the Neighbourhood Association Guide as a targeted neighbourhood-level response to address safety concerns, ensure access to resources, and enhance one’s sense of belonging in the community.

The draft Neighbourhood Association Guide was approved by City Council on June 28, 2023. Following approval, the CSWO planned and delivered a Community Leaders Workshop, discussed in detail in the section below.

Current Situation:

After the draft Neighbourhood Association Guide was approved by City Council, there were several components that led to finalizing the guide.

Community Leaders Workshop

Residents' participation in finalizing the draft Neighbourhood Association Guide and potential uses for the Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant funding allowed neighbourhoods to be a part of the evolution of providing solutions and addressing and overcoming gaps related to neighbourhood-level interventions.

The CSWO planned and led a workshop with community leaders and existing Neighbourhood Associations to gain insight and input into the draft guide and associated Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant available to affiliated Neighbourhood Associations.

The CSWO promoted the workshop to over 300 CSWO connections from community engagements with an email invitation and through word-of-mouth. This group included resident champions, neighbourhood association leaders, Friends of CSWO, Brampton volunteers, Members of Council, members of the Brampton Community Safety Advisory Committee (BCSAC), and others. Over forty (40) Brampton residents across all ten wards in the city attended the three (3) hour facilitated session. This engaged group included several existing neighbourhood associations, members of the BCSAC, and volunteer groups. Workshop participants provided direct feedback on specific areas of the draft guide. This feedback was gained through group conversations and share-back discussions. It garnered over 200 comments related to the following elements of the draft:

- Pre- and post-application supports
- Siloed/multiple neighbourhood associations per geographic area
- Project list
- Conduct of associations
- Application process

Overall, workshop participants expressed gratitude for being included in the discussion to finalize the draft. They felt the guide was a comprehensive and detailed tool with transparency, flexibility, broadness, accessibility, and support from the CSWO.

Neighbourhood Association Guide

The Neighbourhood Association Guide will launch following approval of this report, with an application in-take window for neighbourhood associations to apply to become affiliated with the City, opening in the spring of 2024.

The Neighbourhood Association Guide aims to support groups of residents (a minimum of twenty (20) residents (each from different households) governed by volunteers with a vested interest in improving the well-being of residents. The Guide will provide information on the following:

- Brampton Neighbourhood Association Affiliation (i.e., benefits, requirements, and process of affiliation)
- Resources for building Neighbourhood Action Plans

- Potential beautification, connectedness, sense of belonging, and safety uses for the CSWO Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant (up to \$1,500 per Affiliated Neighbourhood Association).

CSWO Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant

The CSWO recognizes the unique and valuable role neighbourhood groups can play in delivering projects that meet needs across their neighbourhood, complement City services, and contribute to advancing the City's strategic focus areas.

Through the CSWO, a funding source to support local neighbourhood beautification, connectedness, sense of belonging, and safety measures has been developed for Affiliated Neighbourhood Associations, with funds allocated through the 2024 budget process. The Community Leaders Workshop determined that the first year of the program will require funding for ten neighbourhood associations per ward. The Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant will require an allocation of \$150,000, which differs from the originally stated amount of \$75,000 in Report 2023-517. Furthermore, additional funds will be needed for general liability coverage.

Affiliated Neighbourhood Associations in Brampton will have the opportunity to apply for funding through the newly established Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant. Affiliated Neighbourhood Associations are eligible for up to \$1,500 for collective beautification measures or other projects or initiatives outlined in the Neighbourhood Association Guide and related to community safety and well-being, as reviewed, and approved by the CSWO. Applications are expected to outline outputs, impacts, and align the project to the Community Safety Action Plan.

The CSWO will evaluate the impacts on safety and well-being in neighbourhoods resulting from the Neighbourhood Association's collective measures on beautification, safety, and belonging projects and will track outputs and outcomes to determine the success of the Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant. The CSWO will encourage Neighbourhood Associations to pin and geo-locate successful projects in the newly enhanced GeoHub Neighbourhood Profiles, as user generated content highlighting features and assets from local neighbourhoods.

The CSWO will lead the administration and delivery of the Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant, while the Commissioner of Community Services will have delegated authority to approve funding recommendations and execute on behalf of the City any required grant agreements and other agreements and documents deemed necessary for implementing approved funding from the Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant beginning with the 2024 program year, on such terms and conditions as may be satisfactory to the Commissioner, Community Services or designate and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor or designate.

GeoHub Neighbourhood Profiles

The GeoHub Neighbourhood Profiles is a tool for residents to familiarize themselves with unique community-based assets in their neighbourhoods and connect them to safety and well-being resources. This Council-approved [Community Safety Action Plan](#) tactic will be delivered in several phases. The first phase will map assets for all defined neighbourhoods in Brampton, along with pertinent, neighbourhood-specific data.

The second phase, expected to be delivered in November 2024, is aligned with the Neighbourhood Association Guide and will highlight additional data input by residents and feature projects implemented by Affiliated Neighbourhood Associations through the Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant funding. Including successful projects in the GeoHub Neighbourhood Profiles that are delivered through the Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant allows for a user generated list of neighbourhood assets, which aligns with the Neighbourhood Association Guide asset-identifying activity (section 6, page 26).

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

Funding for the Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant in the amount of \$150,000 has been included as part of the Community Services 2024 Budget Submission, subject to Council approval.

Legal Implications:

Legal Services has prepared the Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant Agreement, which the CSWO will administer with delegated authority to approve funding recommendations and execute on behalf of the City delegated to the Commissioner of Community Services.

Other Implications:

Insurance & Risk Management:

The City will arrange to place general liability insurance coverage for those Neighbourhood Associations who are granted affiliation status and who qualify for this benefit under the CSWO affiliation requirements and eligibility, as identified in the Neighbourhood Association Guide and under the City of Brampton Community Services Community Group Affiliation Policy. There will be minimal impact on the current premium and it will be funded through our general revenue account for the City.

Strategic Focus Area:

This initiative supports the Strategic Focus Area of Health & Well-being, focused on citizen's belonging, health, wellness, and safety. It provides strategies for enhancing safety and well-being in neighbourhoods through measures for beautification of local

neighbourhoods, whereby neighbourhoods with clean and beautified physical spaces will promote positive behaviours and improve sense of belonging and connectedness, which aligns with the goals and safety, awareness, and empowerment focus areas of the Council approved Community Safety Action Plan.

Conclusion:

The Neighbourhood Association Guide is a novel resource that builds capacity and establishes a network of residents to support working collectively to address and overcome safety concerns in their neighbourhoods. This new tool incorporates valued community feedback and aims to support groups of residents governed by volunteers and people with a vested interest in improving the well-being of residents and outlines the use of the CSWO Nurtured Neighbourhood Grant.

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Attachment:

Appendix A – Neighbourhood Association Guide