

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT FOR 2015/16

BACKGROUND:

The City Council has appropriated Local Option Sales Tax funds to finance their Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP). This year, \$50,000 was approved for neighborhood programs, with \$25,000 earmarked for the NIP and the remaining \$25,000 allocated for a broader array of neighborhood projects.

As Council may recall, there are two main goals of the NIP: (1) to strengthen a neighborhood's appearance with the addition of permanent physical improvements, and (2) to promote a greater sense of community through resident participation in a neighborhood project.

Each project application is rated on the following 100-point system. A project must achieve at least 50 points to be considered:

Resident Involvement (30 points maximum):*

...the number of residents donating their time and/or labor to accomplish the project

...the number of residents donating funds to the project

*10 points 1-25 people; 20 points 26-50 people; 30 points over 50 people

Project Impact (30 points maximum):**

...the number of residents who will be positively affected by the improvement

**10 points 1-25 people; 20 points 26-100 people; 30 points over 100 people

Safety (10 points maximum):

...enhancement of safety in the neighborhood

Public Space (10 points maximum):

...promotion of social interaction by utilizing public space

Improved Housing (10 points maximum)

Environment (10 points maximum):

...support for the environment

An application was received from the Old Town Neighborhood Association for a Neighborhood Improvement Project Grant. This is the third application received for funding in 2015/16. To date, \$7,692.95 has been expended.

The Review Panel, comprised of City staff members and two citizens, scored the application of the Old Town Neighborhood Association and unanimously recommended that the project be approved for funding. The Neighborhood Improvement Project Review Panel is now recommending approval by the City Council of the following project:

The Old Town Neighborhood Association proposes to increase the ability of the neighborhood to both attract and sustain Monarch butterflies by planting 256 milkweed plants. Milkweed leaves are the nearly exclusive food source for Monarch larvae and the location where the eggs are laid. Milkweed flowers are also a source of nectar, which can sustain adult Monarch butterflies. The plants proposed to be planted are perennials, which can be expected to live at least for three to five years. They are also self-seeding, so the expectation is that the numbers will increase in future years.

The total cost of the project is \$1,200.36. Requested City funding is \$400.36. The applicants are providing labor in the amount of \$800.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can approve the expenditure of \$400.36 to fund the NIP grant project for the Old Town Neighborhood Association to establish an improved Monarch Habitat.
2. The City Council can reject this project for funding at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Supporting projects like this that strengthen neighborhoods is in keeping with one of the City Council's goals.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1 as described above.