

7.2 MONASH NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING GRANTS

Responsible Committee: Monash Community Grants Evaluation Committee

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accepts the Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel recommendation to fund a total of \$3,900 for a one-off cash allocation through the Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grant applications as follows:

- 1. Chess tables for Clayton*
- 2. Ashwood gateway community garden*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek support from Council to fund two projects via the Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants program (MNMG).

BACKGROUND

The Monash Community Grants Program allocates approximately \$2.53M annually to a range of incorporated groups community organisations and groups. These allocations support seniors groups, emerging communities, arts groups and community organisations to deliver services and activities that benefit Monash residents. The nature of the program requires that these organisations be incorporated and have appropriate public liability insurance.

Consequently, informal neighbourhood groups who want to undertake a small local one-off project that could benefit their local area are ineligible to apply to the Monash Community Grants Program.

As a means to addressing this barrier, Council has designed a small, grass roots grant program that encourages applications from groups of neighbours who live in the City of Monash and come together with a good idea on how they can improve their neighbourhood. Many of these projects would not go ahead without some form of financial assistance, therefore this grant program allows these projects to come to fruition.

Grant Recommendations

Two applications have been received.

The 'Chess tables for Clayton' project is intended to create two chess tables which will be placed in the Clayton Activity Centre. The aim of the project is to provide a meeting space to encourage socialisation and a connection between cultural and diverse communities. The installation of these tables

will bring together community members to engage in an activity in a safe and welcoming environment. By providing this activity it is hoped to also cater to the older members of the community who come to the Clayton activity centre.

The Clayton and Clarinda Leadership Group and a number of other multicultural organisations including PEASER, Clayton Chinese Friendship Group and Clayton Clarinda Art Group have advocated that the installation of these tables will benefit the local community.

The second application is for the 'Ashwood Gateway Community Garden.' The Ashwood Tenants Advisory Group would like to achieve a long held goal of establishing a community vegetable garden. This project aims to bring neighbours together to grow and harvest organic food. This garden will increase the health and fitness of the tenants through gardening and accessing fresh healthy produce. It will also providing a way for local people to connect with each other creating a stronger sense of community.

This project will benefit a large number of residents who live in the gateway development in Power Avenue Ashwood. The residents have been advocating for a community garden for a number of years. This vegetable garden starter project will offer the opportunity for the residents to show their commitment to a shared garden project which could be a stepping stone to a larger community garden sometime in the future.

These applications have been reviewed by the Monash Community Grants Evaluation panel Crs Klisaris, Little, James, Paterson and Zographos and are recommended for allocation;

Project Title	Project Summary	Location of Neighbourhood Group	\$ Allocation
Chess tables for Clayton	The "Chess tables for Clayton" project is intended to create two chess tables to be placed in the Clayton Activity Center. These tables will be made with the assistance of Monash Men's shed and the Waverley woodworkers. They will provide an opportunity for community members to come together and connect over a shared activity in a safe and friendly space.	Clayton Community Centre and Clayton road	\$1,900.00
Ashwood Gateway Community Garden	The Ashwood Gateway Community Garden project is the culmination of a long term aspiration of the Ashwood Tenants Advisory Group to establish a community vegetable garden. This vegetable garden will offer the opportunity for the local community to	Ashwood Gateway	\$2000.00

	grow and share fresh organic produce between tenants, provide a way for local people to connect with each other and create a stronger sense of community.		
TOTAL			\$3,900.00

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Neighbourhood Matching Grants policy has been implemented such that it supports the Council Plan and other strategic Council documents. It supports community connectivity and participation as well as targeting those whom are socially isolated.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants Program has the potential to generate a greater sense of community. This will be achieved by encouraging greater participation in civic life by residents in a local area.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants Program addresses the four key themes: freedom, respect, equality and dignity of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total allocation recommended for these applications is \$3,900.00, which is within Council's budget for this program.

CONCLUSION

The Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants Program assists local residents to connect with their neighbours, come together and share ideas, foster a sense of belonging and increase community participation. This grant program builds on Council's commitment to create a greater sense of community in the City of Monash.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grant Guidelines