



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of July 13, 2026

Title/Subject

Award Funding through the Transient Room Tax (TRT) Recreation Projects Grants.

Summary and Background

The Recreation Project Fund Advisory Committee met on June 16, 2026 to review twelve proposals submitted for the 2026-27 allocation. Present at the meeting were Committee members Hunter Tibbals, James Whalley, David McCarthy, and Helen Nevin; staff present was Brandon Artz. Budgeted in FY 26/27 for distribution is \$125,000 and the total application amount was \$231,160.

Application packets were sent to prior applicants and known parties of interest and made available on the City's website. The distribution criteria for applicants is as follows.

TRT Funding Criteria and Eligibility

- Total budgeted project fund allocation for 2026/2027 is \$125,000.
- Projects must be within the City of Hermiston.
- Applicants must have a non-profit tax status.
- Projects that benefit Hermiston through enhanced tourism, promotion, marketing, and lodging will be given highest consideration.
- Projects that benefit the greatest number of participants will be given greater consideration.
- Projects that represent a broad base of other support shall be given greater consideration.
- Funded projects are required to submit a breakdown of expenditures on how the funds were spent including receipts prior to reimbursement.

Applicants were allowed 10 minutes to describe their project proposals and answer questions from the Committee. After review of the applications, the Committee discussed each proposal in detail and through consensus, settled on the award amounts in the following table.

The TRT Recreation Projects Grants Committee officially recommends the following allocation of grant awards:

Applicant	Description	Committee Award
Hermiston Downtown District	Melon Fest	\$10,000
Cinco de Mayo	2026 Cinco de Mayo Event	\$10,000
Inland Northwest Musicians	Orchestra Events	\$1,440
Hermiston Parks & Recreation	Annual Free Community Events	\$15,000
Hermiston Parks & Recreation	Mobile Video Trailer	\$30,000
Hermiston Sports Commission	Hermiston Sports Commission	\$7,000
Hermiston Basketball Club	Tournament Awards	\$8,000
541 Pickleball Club	Pickleball Enhancements	\$560
Hermiston Rotary Club	2026 Pickleball Tournament	\$5,000
Eastern OR Women's Business Lab	EO Women's Business Summit	\$20,000
Made to Thrive	Program Funding	\$3,000
Hermiston Jr Bulldogs	Youth Football Program	\$15,000
	Total Requested \$231,160	Total Award Recommendation \$125,000

Tie-In to Council Goals

The awards of the TRT Recreation Projects Grants ties in to all four Council goals.

Goal 1 - Growing & Prosperous

Goal 3 - Sustainable

Goal 2 - Safe & Healthy

Goal 4 - Connected & Engaged

Fiscal Information

The Recreation Projects Funds project is identified in the 2026/2027 City Budget.

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

The City Council may choose to approve, deny, or modify the funding allocations recommended by the Committee.

Recommended Action/Motion

Motion to approve the TRT Recreation Projects funding allocations as recommended by the Committee.

Submitted By:

Brandon Artz, Parks & Recreation Director