



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action – Acceptance of Linn County Youth Activities Grant

Preferred Agenda: September 8, 2020 (canceled)
September 22, 2020

Submitted By: Rose Peda, Library Services Director

Reviewed By: Ray Towry, City Manager

Type of Action: Resolution ____ Motion X Roll Call ____ Other ____

Relevant Code/Policy: N/A

Towards Council Goal: Goal #3 Essential Services (#3 Develop partnerships with regional services and work to connect them with the appropriate members of the public.

Attachments: Linn County Youth Activities grant application

Purpose of this RCA:

The purpose of this RCA is to request City Council accept the Linn County Youth Activities grant for our new Sweet Home Education Partnership Program.

Background/Context:

Linn County Commissioners recognized the immense, negative effects that the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions are having on our youth. They declared an emergency and allocated \$1 million for projects that provide children with a chance to participate in organized activities that support opportunities for the development of social skills, physical activities, enrichment programs and growth, and interaction with appropriate adults coaches and mentors beyond their immediate household.

We are attempting to step up to help address the challenges we foresee children and their working parents may encounter. Beginning this fall, with this grant, we will be offering afterhours support and enrichment along with homework assistance through programs offered by our partners: 4-H, Outdoor School, and SHOCASE.

We know the transition from in-class learning to online learning will be an immense challenge for many children and parents. Kids are lacking their necessary social interaction with their peers, teachers, and other out of the home adults who fill an important role as a mentor.

The partnership between 4-H, Sweet Home Public Library, Outdoor School and SHOCASE will be crucial for children who live in circumstances ill-suited to virtual schooling – no Wi-Fi, no laptops, no quiet space, and no adult mentors who are prepared to oversee their lessons. We

want to ensure that children and families in need have access to resources with trained support persons.

4-H has a long history of offering educational and enrichment programs in the Sweet Home community. All 4-H programs include mentoring and career readiness as core elements. Our proposed partnership with the City of Sweet Home, the Sweet Home Public Library, Outdoor School, and SHOCASE will build upon and compliment the offerings of 4-H.

Accepting this grant will allow us to help fill in very much needed gaps to help families in our community.

The Challenge/Problem:

How and with whom does the City partner with to provide afterhours activities for youth in our community?

Stakeholders:

Citizens: Citizens, especially children, deserve opportunities to experience activities that may spark their interests and to have

Councilors: It is the duty of the City Council to provide oversight on City activities and authorize formal agreements with other entities.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

The City will be the fiscal agent on the grant which will require Finance Director, Brandon Neish and oversight of the grant by Library Services Director, Rose Peda. With the approval of the Library Advisory Board, \$5,000 from the budget was committed to this grant.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

An approved grant application and resulting grant award that funds the afterhours program with 4-H, the Sweet Home Public Library, Outdoor School and SHOCASE.

Options:

1. Do nothing.
2. Make a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement and accept the grant for Linn County Youth Activities.
3. Make a motion to reject the grant.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends option 2: *Make a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement and accept the grant for Linn County Youth Activities.*