

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO

Staff Report

June 13, 2019

For the Meeting of June 18, 2019

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Kevin MacLeod, Recreation Coordinator II
Mattie O'Grady, Recreation Supervisor

SUBJECT: Hal Brown Scholarship Program Revisions

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks and Recreation Commission review the Hal Brown Scholarship program in its entirety and consider proposed changes in advance of the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year.

BACKGROUND

The scholarship fund was established by Hal Brown, former Marin District 2 supervisor and is funded through the County. The scholarship program goes back as far as 2006 and offers financial assistance to children (16 and under) from lower-income families, making it possible for them to participate in recreation programs at a reduced out of pocket cost.

Scholarship applicants must meet the following standards to qualify:

- 1) Household income must not exceed the "low" income threshold as established by the Marin Housing Authority. (Attachment 1, FY2019 Marin County Income Limits)
 - a. Verified by relevant tax forms (i.e. 1040)
- 2) If tax forms are not available then the applicant must be currently enrolled in a public assistance program such as CalFresh, CalWORKS, Medi-Cal, TANF, or Public Housing.
 - a. Verified by a Notice of Action Letter from the respective agency
- 3) Submit a completed scholarship application with the attached forms requested above.

Currently, all approved applicants are given a \$400 scholarship that can be used to cover 50% of the registration fee; the participant is then required to pay the remaining balance. Scholarship funds are capped at \$400 per household and the participant is required to pay out of pocket for any additional classes once the scholarship funds have been exhausted.

DISCUSSION

Staff is proposing multiple changes to the current scholarship program to increase fund usage and overall effectiveness of the program. The current program awards, on average, 32 scholarships per fiscal year to low income families, however, the actual usage of the awarded funds is less than 50%.

For historical comparison purposes, staff has developed the following table:

Fiscal Year	# of Scholarships Awarded	Scholarship Amount	Total Funds Awarded	Total Funds Used	% of Funds Used	# of full scholarships used	% of full scholarships used
2018-19 YTD	30	\$ 400.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,905.00	33%	3	10%
2017-18	34	\$ 400.00	\$ 13,600.00	\$ 6,616.50	49%	3	9%
2016-17	26	\$ 400.00	\$ 10,400.00	\$ 5,652.50	54%	3	12%
2015-16	32	\$ 400.00	\$ 12,800.00	\$ 5,884.75	46%	5	16%
2014-15	36	\$ 500.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 6,726.75	37%	7	19%
2013-14	31	\$ 500.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 8,617.50	56%	7	23%
2012-13	32	\$ 250.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,070.50	51%	5	16%
Average	32	\$ 407.00	12900	\$ 5,925.00	46%	5	15%

The proposed recommendations are designed to combat the low usage numbers and better serve the needs of our lower income participants. Staff is proposing that scholarship funds be used to cover 100% of the registration fee and the amount per household be capped at \$300. The changes would eliminate the out of pocket cost for scholarship recipients, while also allowing a larger number of qualified applicants to receive funding. Total scholarship funding would not exceed \$10,200 per fiscal year and the program will close through the end of the fiscal year once 34 scholarships have been awarded.

Analysis

In the past scholarship funds were given to the San Anselmo Recreation Department from District 2 of Marin County on a yearly basis to cover the cost of the scholarship program. However, due to low scholarship usage the recreation department has not requested or needed funds from the county to help cover the cost. Funds from previous years have greatly exceeded the amount used by scholarship recipients, leading to a surplus in the scholarship fund, which has been used to fund the past few years of the scholarship and will again be used to fund FY 19/20.

The proposed changes will likely have an impact on overall fund utilization by recipients and require the recreation department to reconnect with Marin County District 2 for additional scholarship funding beginning in FY 20/21. Hal Brown's scholarship program is an invaluable resource to provide subsidized programming for lower income households without rolling the costs into annual expenditures. With current budget cuts, it is beneficial to restore the relationship with Marin County District 2 and reapply for additional funding going forward.

Conclusion

The Hal Brown Scholarship program is a resource for lower income families within Ross Valley, but the overall effectiveness of the program is limited by regulations that have reduced usage of funds awarded. The previously discussed changes will better serve the needs of our lower income families and increase fund usage to well over the current 46%. This will in turn renew the relationship with Marin County District

2; a useful resource for the San Anselmo Recreation Department to continue providing subsidized programming to lower income families in need.

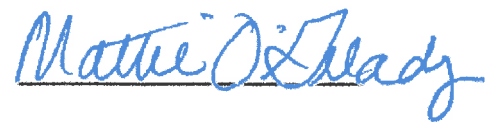
Recommendation

In conclusion, Town staff recommends the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the proposed changes to the Hal Brown Scholarship Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Kevin MacLeod in black ink, consisting of the initials 'K. MacL'.

Kevin MacLeod
Recreation Coordinator II

Handwritten signature of Mattie O'Grady in blue ink, consisting of the name 'Mattie O'Grady'.

Mattie O'Grady
Recreation Supervisor

Attachment 1: Marin Housing Authority FY2019 Marin County Income Limits



4020 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903-417

FY2019 Marin County Income Limits

HH Size	Public Housing, Section 8 & CDBG Programs				BMR Home Ownership Program	
	Extremely Low	Very-Low	Low	Median	Moderate	
1	33,850	56,450	90,450	95,750	114,900	
2	38,700	64,500	103,350	109,450	131,350	
3	43,550	72,550	116,250	123,100	147,750	
4	48,350	80,600	129,150	136,800	164,150	
5	52,250	87,050	139,500	147,750	177,300	
6	56,100	93,500	149,850	158,700	190,450	
7	60,000	99,950	160,150	169,650	203,550	
8	63,850	106,400	170,500	180,600	216,700	
9	67,700	112,800	180,800	191,500	229,800	

The "Extremely Low," "Very Low Income" and "Low Income" schedules shown above were published by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), effective 4/24/19. The "Median Income" schedule shown above is based on the FY2019 median family income for the San Francisco HMFA of \$136,800 for a four-person household, issued by HUD effective 4/24/19, with adjustments for smaller and larger household sizes. The "Moderate Income" schedule shown above represents 120% of median income. For additional information, you may consult the HUD website at www.huduser.org/datasets/il.html.