

2016-2017 MARYANNE CORDER NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

\$10,000 maximum amount per applicant

Application deadline: Monday, April 4, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of association: The Optimist Park SE Quadrant Neighborhood Association

Number of households: 410 Households Zip code area: 85283

Project site major crossroads: Price and Guadalupe Roads

Project is located on:

- City right-of-way X City property like a park common area or property

Name of contact person: Ian E. Johnston

(Grant coordinator who can answer questions and receives all correspondence related to the project)

Phone

Address



Name of authorizing official: Ian E Johnston or the City Contractor
(Person with legal authority to accept and disburse funds for the organization)

Phone: See above E-mail address: See Above

Address: See above

Number

Street

City

State

Zip

STAFF CONTACT(S)

Name of city staff person(s) contacted: Shauna Warner

SIGNATURE

By signing below, I certify this proposal meets all minimum requirements. I also understand that funding for proposals is not guaranteed.

Authorizing Official's Signature: _____

Ian E Johnston

Date: 04/04/2016

PROJECT NARRATIVE

In the space provided below, please describe specifically how the City of Tempe's funds will be used:

We hope to use acquired funds through the grant program to improve and beautiful our park, Optimist Park, which is a focal point of our community and neighborhood. We are seeking the fund to add new shade trees, an additional picnic area, as well as make additional improvements to current, ageing park equipment and furniture. We are seeking to add 9 shade trees (AZ Ash & Modesto Ash). We are adding one additional trash can and replacing three older cans with newer cans that match the newer park benches. We are looking to add one pet waste dispensary to the opposite side of the park from the current one and replacing the current dispensary with a matching one. There are two grills currently at our park, both of which we hope to replace as ours are older and from appearances viewed as unsafe and non-functional. (Based on neighbor feedback) We also hope to add two additional grills with the new park table and add a grill to an existing table that currently does not have one.

PROJECT BUDGET

Expenses	Amount
Park Tables (1)	\$1200.00
Trash Cans (4)	\$3600.00
Dog Waste Dispensary (2)	\$300.00
Shade Trees (5 AZ Ash / 4 Modesto Ash) (9)	\$3600.00
Grills (4)	\$1200.00
	\$
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$9900.00

City Funds Requested: City of Tempe Assigned Contractor
(amount should equal one of the included bids)

Dollars per household: \$24.15
(funds requested divided by # of households)

Match from Association: NA
(Must be at least 1/2 of total project cost for HOA's/apts.)

Total project cost: \$9900.00
(amount should equal one of the included bids)

1. Please describe how this project meets each of the guidelines listed:
 - A. **Improves health and safety of residents:** Healthy and Safety are both part of this project. Optimist Park SE quadrant is a well-established neighborhood that contains a diverse community of residents. Our park is a focal point of our neighborhood. It brings young families and established residents together in a central location, getting residents out doors and offering amenities to all families. Safety is also important and as our neighborhood grows and changes, maintaining and adding upon the current equipment and various park furniture is essential to ensuring a safe and fun environment to the residents we serve.
 - B. **Benefits a significant number of residents and/or the City at large:** A majority of neighborhood residents utilize it for many purposes. Football and soccer games are often played. Residents of the neighborhood often gather at the park at Halloween and Easter for neighborhood potlucks. Our park in recent years received funding to improve and add upon our children's park equipment with shades, as our neighborhood has been changing and turning over a number our households have a number of young children which utilize the parks amenities. Dog dispensaries offer our residents and easy way to ensure that our park remains clear of pet waste.
 - C. **Addresses a known neighborhood deficiency:** Our neighborhood was built in the 70's and throughouT the decades there have been improvements that enhance our neighborhood and provide a level of appeal. As our neighborhood, more specifically our park, items like grills, tables, and trash cans have aged and have come to a point where they should be replaced. Adding shade trees and another grill area with table adds to our predeceasing neighbors vision for our neighborhood by adding more appeal to visit a local park by offering more recreational space and shade specifically to cool areas of the park during the summer.
 - D. **Complements other neighborhood projects (private or City):** There is a local elementary school which many of our youth attend the same youth who play daily at our park. The park is near the beginning of the El Paso Gas Line Bike path which is a part of the 6 mile bike path which now reaches the Tempe Kiwanis park and serves a part of the Tempe initiative to reduce emissions and encourages residents to get involved and find other modes of transport. Another complement, is that improvement such as these reflect Tempe's commitment to its residents to offer only the best amenities, as well as why so many Valley residents choose Tempe as home.
 - E. **Provides an environmental benefit, such as water and/or energy conservation:** The park in more recent years (around 15) was redesigned to retain water and prevent flooding. Adding trees to this park would require irrigation that compliments the design of the park as well as reducing direct heat to the park allowing more residents to enjoy the park within the warmer months of summer. Other upgrades enhance and improve current equipment (excluding the irrigation for additional trees) without additional cost
 - F. **Enhances the aesthetics of the neighborhood:** Improving the equipment and adding trees and the additional grill area not only make the park better, but offers a level a curb appeal comparable to the quality of our neighbor residents who pride themselves on the manicured yards and appearance of their homes. As mentioned above the park is a focal point of our neighborhood and is a key reason to why home buyers seek to live in our desirable and established neighborhood.
 - G. **Accessible to all members of the community:** There are currently 4 quadrants of the Optimist Park Neighborhood, 3 of which NA are not active, however the school (located next to park) draws families from all 4 quadrants as well as surrounding neighborhoods.
2. **Describe how members of the community have been directly involved in the development of the project.** We have held 3 meetings to plan for this grant project. Offering online modalities and in person opportunity for residents to offer insight and feedback. We've had 92 residents attend at least one meeting. Our NA was established late November.

3. **Grant funds can only be used for the capital improvement project, not maintenance. Please describe specifically how the association intends to maintain the project if funded.** – Because of the stipulations of our grant program, we are required to work with a pre-designated City Contractor. Ian Johnston and Melanie O’Toole are the primary contacts and intend to work out expectations for timeline and appropriate forms of communications to ensure appropriate expectations are set and met.
4. **If your association has previously received grant funds, please share how they have impacted your neighborhood.** A majority of the active members within the association were not residents of the previous grants. However in the past our park playground was upgraded with additional playground equipment. It was also indicated that several decades ago we received funds for the El Paso gas-line to transform it into a walking/bike path, which now connects to an extensive web of bike paths available to all.
5. **Outside of grant projects, please describe any other activities your association has participated in (i.e. GAIN, Adopt-A-Park, food drives, etc.) within the past year.** As a newly established Neighborhood Association we would like to host a neighborhood get together 2x a year including Tempe Neighborhood Fall Festival, Arbor Day Festivities, and clothing drives. We have hosted our first neighborhood garage sale, and are actively soliciting participation in Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors.
6. **What is your proposed timeline for the grant project?**
4 Weeks

OPTIMIST PARK SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

November 17, 2015

Dear Optimist Park Southeast Neighbor:

Please join your neighbors at a neighborhood meeting on **December 1, 2015 at Fuller Elementary School, 1975 E Cornell Drive at 6:30 pm.**

It has been a long time since our voluntary neighborhood association has held a meeting and we think it's time to reengage. Our neighborhood boundaries are Sesame to Guadalupe, Country Club to Price.

A neighborhood association is a voluntary effort to work together respectfully, building on the strengths of the neighborhood and its residents while addressing any problems that may exist. Membership is open to all residents and property owners in the neighborhood, but participation is optional. Everyone in the neighborhood is welcome and encouraged to participate. All opinions will be heard and respected. The City's Neighborhood Services Division provides technical and informational services to neighborhood associations.

As a neighborhood association we are eligible to apply for a neighborhood grant in an amount up to \$10,000. Join us at the meeting to discuss possible grant projects..

A neighborhood is strengthened by residents who care about it. We will be conducting elections for a neighborhood chair at this meeting. If you would consider serving in a leadership position, please attend. If you can't attend the meeting and still want to serve, please contact me and I'll make sure your name is added to the slate.

Please join us on Dec. 1 to meet your neighbors, hold a quick election, hear about the neighborhood grant program and determine where we'd like to go from here. **You can fill out a neighborhood survey at www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodsurvey** or bring the enclosed survey to the meeting to provide input into areas to focus on. If you have any questions about the City of Tempe's Neighborhood Services Division, please call the Neighborhood Office at 480-350-8234.

Sincerely,

Melanie Wright




01/06/2016

Meeting: January 12, 2016 @6:30 PM

Fuller Elementary School: 1975 East Cornell Drive, Tempe, AZ 85283

Hello Fellow Neighbors!

We hope everyone had a wonderful season! Recently we had a chance to meet at Fuller Elementary, to discuss the organization of a Neighborhood Association.

What is a neighborhood association?

A neighborhood association is a voluntary organization of residents who work together to improve and maintain the quality of life in their neighborhood. Associations can form out of concern over a particular issue, as a means of enhancing a sense of community, to serve as a link of communication between neighbors, to turn diverse interests into assets, etc... Membership is open to all residents, however participation is optional.

There were a variety of topics that were discussed when approaching the idea of a formal organization at our last meeting. That said, we'd like the input of as many of our neighbors and residents to maximize input and continue to our sense of community through various endeavors and preserve the quality of our beautiful neighborhood.

At our next meeting there are a number of items to discuss.

- Organizational Details
- Elections of neighborhood council, block captains, other voluntary roles
- 2016/2017 Grant Program
 - We need to narrow down idea for use of funds
 - Set timelines
- Neighborhood Watch
- Neighborhood Events
- Tempe News and Announcements

To ensure every voice is heard we invite everyone to attend this meeting. Should you have further questions or concerns please contact [REDACTED] Follow, comment, and share on our Neighborhood Facebook! Search *Optimist Park SE Tempe AZ*. We hope to see you January 12, at 6:30PM. Thanks for your time and the opportunity to work together!

Warm regards,

Ian Johnston & Melanie Wright



Fuller Elementary School 

E Cornell Dr

S Kenwood Ln

S Kenwood I
New Table
New Grill
Tree

Trash Cans

Optimist Park 

Replace
Grills

New Grill

Dog Was

E Sesame St

Trees

Optimist Park SE Quadrant Neighborhood Association
Optimist Park Improvements Application for City of Tempe Neighborhood Grant Program
2000 E Sesame St Tempe AZ 85283
Proposed Use and Scope of Work

- This is a neighborhood/city park. The equipment listed in the application requires installation. The trees would need to be planted, irrigation would need to be routed from current irrigation at the park.







