



# POLICY

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<b>POLICY NO:</b>	217	<b>APPROVAL DATE:</b>	October 5, 2020
<b>TITLE:</b>	Neighbourhood Association	<b>REVISION DATE:</b>	
<b>SECTION:</b>	Community Services	<b>PAGE 1 OF 2</b>	
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Sports Development, Wellness & Culture		

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## POLICY STATEMENT

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The City of Grande Prairie (“City”) recognizes the important role Neighbourhood Associations play in creating connected communities that foster civic pride and a sense of belonging. Council is committed to the ongoing support of Neighbourhood Associations to ensure their success.

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## REASON FOR POLICY

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The City recognizes the importance of Neighbourhood Associations as they continue to engage and involve residents with the goal of increasing community connections to build a sense of community and community ownership.

This Policy clarifies Council’s intent for the benefit of residents who volunteer and lead these Associations. Having a clear Neighbourhood Association Mandate gives Associations direction and sets expectations for the role they play in Grande Prairie. Outlining the Mandate will encourage resident involvement and engagement which forms part of the City’s Citizen Engagement [Policy 118](#).

The Mandate for Neighbourhood Associations is to:

- provide a platform for residents to play an active role in their community.
- disseminate relevant information from the City, or other organizations that pertains to the interests of the residents.
- connect people, processes and ideas and provide a voice for residents to provide feedback to the City.
- regularly take the pulse of the community to gauge residents priorities.
- identify assets in their community and utilize them to enhance the neighbourhood.

The City will continue to support Neighbourhood Associations by providing opportunities for Associations to share important information that arises from their community. Council will be open and responsive to all feedback received from Neighbourhood Associations. The City will continue to support capacity building for Neighbourhood Associations, provide grants and funding opportunities, as well as support for neighbourhood programs and City led initiatives that celebrate neighbourhoods or impact communities.

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## **RELATED INFORMATION**

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Council's 2012-2014 Strategic Plan identified developing a Citizen Engagement Framework which included the formation and support of Neighbourhood Associations. Since 2013 Administration has supported Neighbourhood Associations through Operating Grants, Matching Grants and City led initiatives they could partner with.

Feedback from Neighbourhood Associations in 2020 indicated that it would be helpful to understand the vision and expectation from Council for the role they play. Understanding this will demonstrate Council's ongoing commitment and support for Neighbourhood Associations as an integral part of community development. Associations also develop their own internal mandates by gathering feedback from residents on what is important to the community when planning activities and initiatives.

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## **DEFINITIONS**

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**Neighbourhood Association** means a registered Society under the Alberta Societies Act that is run by a volunteer led Board of Directors. Neighbourhood Associations provide a common voice for the neighbourhood and initiatives that engage their members. Also referred to as Associations.

**Neighbourhood Association Mandate** means the expectations that City outlines to guide Neighbourhood Associations in strategic planning.

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## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

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City Council will review and approve any revisions to this Policy.

City Manager will review and approve any procedures related to this Policy.

City Administration will carry out the policy based on established procedures.