

Valparaiso Offers Grants for Neighborhoods

Because Valparaiso values its neighborhoods, the City of Valparaiso is introducing a pilot program designed to help neighborhoods reach their full potential. The Neighborhood Grant program offers funding for qualified neighborhood-based projects. “We hope to inspire neighbors to come together and discover creative new ways to make their neighborhoods even better,” said Maggie Clifton, Valparaiso’s Community Engagement Director. “We want to hear from neighborhoods about the kinds of projects that are important to them.”

Grants will be made in increments up to \$15,000, with a total fund of about \$60,000, contributed by the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission. Projects considered for grant funding may include things like:

- Physical improvements, like fixing sidewalks, park equipment or lighting
- Public art displays that add unique character by representing the neighborhood
- Neighborhood signage/branding that instills unity and a sense of pride
- Other placemaking and community building projects conceived by the neighborhood

Neighborhood-based organizations and groups are eligible to apply for the Neighborhood Grants; however, individual institutions and political groups are not. The city will hold information sessions to give residents the opportunity to learn more about eligibility and how to apply. Applicants are encouraged to participate in one of the three sessions on:

July 21, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Valparaiso Public Library, 103 Jefferson St.

July 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 166 Lincolnway

July 26, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at City Hall, 166 Lincolnway

Applications will be due on Oct. 1. Each application will be reviewed by a committee, which will submit their recommendations to the Commission at the Oct. 25 meeting and applicants will be notified of acceptance or denial by November. Maggie Clifton will be working with residents and the city’s leadership team to refine how applications align with city values. She can also assist neighborhoods in polishing their ideas. To learn more about the Neighborhood Grants and access the application, visit

<https://www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/1636/Neighborhood-Improvement-Grant>.