

NO: R090

COUNCIL DATE: May 27, 2024

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 23, 2024**

FROM: **General Manager, Corporate Services**

FILE: **1540-20**

SUBJECT: **Council Committee Volunteer Appreciation Reception for 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

The Corporate Services Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to plan the Volunteer Appreciation Reception (“VAR”) for Council to recognize volunteers of Council Committees, Commissions and Boards for their service in 2024.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to authorize staff to plan the VAR for Council to recognize volunteers of Council Committees, Commissions and Boards for their service in 2024.

BACKGROUND

The VAR is an event that is hosted yearly to recognize Council appointed volunteer members who serve on Council Committees, Commissions and Boards. Volunteers invited to the event are provided two tickets and may bring a guest. In 2023, the VAR took place at the Northview Golf and Country Club on November 8, 2023 with approximately 114 people in attendance. In 2022, the VAR took place at the Civic Hotel Banquet Room on July 19, 2022 with approximately 77 people in attendance.

DISCUSSION

The group of Council appointed volunteers consists of approximately 100 individuals who will be recognized at a dinner reception. Historically, the invitation is extended to representatives from the various business improvement associations, the Surrey Board of Trade, Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, and Cloverdale Rodeo Board members.

Recognition of Other Volunteers

Volunteers who are not appointed by Council are recognized in many ways through staff-initiated events and offerings. This is a large group of individuals, of over 2,000 volunteers city-wide and the events and offerings that are provided take this into account.

Parks, Recreation & Culture (“PRC”) staff hold two campaigns of recognition annually, one in April during National Volunteer Week and the other in December for International Volunteer Day. During these campaigns volunteers are recognized through social media posts, Jim Pattison digital board advertisements, the City’s website, and e-newsletters.

PRC staff offer special guided nature walks several times a week for parks volunteers. Heritage and arts staff offer specialized free learning workshops for volunteers in these areas. Recreation staff offer tea times and small appreciation events for recreation volunteers.

Throughout the year PRC acknowledges their over 1,600 volunteers by offering; written and verbal messages of appreciation, issuing swag items, workshops, training, and small appreciation events.

During the 2024 National Volunteer Week, the City celebrated PRC volunteers including members of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee and the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee by inviting them to the following events; a guided tour of Darts Hill Garden Park, the Archives Trivia History at the Museum of Surrey, a guided tour of the Surrey Art Gallery and a guided walk at Colebrook Park to identify invasive and native plant species.

On November 14, 2024, the City will host the Civic Distinction Awards which is a joint program involving the Parks, Recreation & Culture, Social Infrastructure and Community Investment, , and the Planning & Development Departments. This event takes place every four years and honors the many community and business leaders who are making innovative contributions in the fields of arts, heritage, environmental stewardship, design, sport tourism and community service. The Program formally recognizes these leaders and fosters a culture of excellence in Surrey.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council authorize staff to plan the VAR for Council to recognize volunteers of Council Committees, Commissions and Boards for their service in 2024 at a reception event in the fall of 2024.

Joey Brar
General Manager, Corporate Services