



Corporate Report

NO: R060

COUNCIL DATE: April 20, 2009

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **April 9, 2009**
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture;** FILE: **0360 - 20/BGRC**
City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Public Special Occasion License Request – Darts Hill Gardens**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Approve a Public Special Occasion License for the event that will be held on June 23, 2009 at Darts Hill Gardens Park.

BACKGROUND

Under Provincial Regulations City Council is authorized to grant a Public Special Occasion License for community or public celebrations. Such a license allows for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages during the celebration subject to conditions.

The Darts Hill Conservancy Trust Society (the Society) is a partner with the City in fund raising for and in the operation of Darts Hill Gardens. The Society manages all tours of the garden, operates the garden on public open days, and raises funds for special garden projects such as plant labelling and plant propagation.

In 2008 the Society organized an event called “**An Evening of the Arts at Darts**”, which showcased the Gardens and raised awareness about the Gardens among Surrey and lower mainland residents who might not otherwise have attended the Gardens before the event. Over 800 visitors attended the event. The event included musicians, painters, sculptors and performers. The Gardens were open to the public for the evening without admission fees and guides gave tours to those that attended. As part of the 2008 event, wine was sold under a Public Special Occasion License to patrons in a secure area near the musical entertainment within the Gardens. Donations during the event and net proceeds from the sale of wine were used for

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various projects in the Gardens, including an important plant-labelling program. The event also raised awareness of the Gardens as a survey conducted during the event indicated that many visitors were there for the first time. The sale of wine at the event in 2008 did not cause any concerns and added to the patrons' enjoyment of the event.

The Society is proposing to hold a similar event at the Gardens on June 23rd, 2009 (See the letter from the Society attached as Appendix 1).

DISCUSSION

The Society is working closely with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department in the planning of the 2009 event to ensure an enjoyable evening for those who attend. Parks staff is assisting in the event by ensuring that washrooms are available and that tents are set up for the artists and musicians and by assisting with parking control and with demobilization of the event.

The Society has requested that the City approve a Public Special Occasion License to allow the sale of wine at the event in the same manner, as was done at last year's event. The Society is aware that they will need to meet all the requirements and stipulations of the RCMP, the Provincial Liquor authority and the City. City staff will be in attendance during the evening to ensure that the event is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the various authorities.

It is anticipated that up to 900 people will attend the 2009 event, depending on the weather. The event will be marketed through advertisements in the local newspapers.

CONCLUSION

The Society is sponsoring a free evening event in Darts Hill Garden on June 23rd, 2009 that is intended to raise awareness of the Gardens among Surrey residents. The Society has requested that City Council issue a Public Special Occasion License to allow the sale of wine at the event, which will assist in recouping the costs associated with hosting the event. Any net revenues will be used for projects targeted at enhancing the Gardens.

Based on the above, it is recommended that Council grant a Public Special Occasion License to the Society for the June 23, 2009 event at Darts Hill Gardens. Staff will continue to work closely with the Society to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for the community.

Jane Sowik
City Clerk

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Attachment – Appendix 1: Letter from Darts Society

cc: -RCMP

Appendix 1



April 8, 2009

Dear Mayor and Council:

The Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society has enjoyed partnering with the City of Surrey for more than a decade. As you may know, the Society's purpose is to raise funds for the operation of the Darts Hill Garden, and to assist the City in operating the Garden. The Society provides guided tours of the garden, propagates rare plant material from the Garden, promotes the Garden and provides an oversight role in the City's management of the 999 year Trust Agreement for the Gardens.

The Society raises funds through plant sales, memberships and donations during tours and Public Open Days that attract thousands of visitors to the Garden. Last year on June 24, the Society, in partnership with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, offered the first *Evening of the Arts at Darts*, a fundraising evening devoted to showcasing Surrey's artists in the spectacular setting of Darts Hill Garden Park. Over 800 residents and visitors attended the evening event, where local performing and visual artist entertained visitors. The funds raised last year have been used to develop a plant-labelling program in the Garden.

Based on last year's success, the Society is once again partnering with the City to put on *An Evening of the Arts at Darts 2009*. We expect to have several ensemble groups playing in the Garden, along with sculptors, painters, and photographers displaying their art and working in the Garden.

It is hoped that Council can provide permission for the Society to have a tent where garden patrons may purchase a glass of wine for enjoyment with the entertainment. We understand that Beer Garden Licences have already been issued for the season, but are hoping that Council will grant permission for this nice touch that will add ambience to the evening. Of course, the Society will work closely with staff and the RCMP to ensure that all special requirements are met. All net revenues from the event will be put back into Garden operations and programming.

Please accept this letter as an invitation to Mayor and Council to attend this special evening at Darts Hill Garden Park. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Linda Stanley Wilson, PhD.

Chair, Darts Hill Conservancy Trust Society