

NO: **F002**

COUNCIL DATE: **January 25, 2010**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 14, 2010**

FROM: **General Manager, Finance &
Technology**

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **2010 Grant Appeals & Late Grant Applications**

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance & Technology Department recommends that the Finance Committee recommend that Council authorize staff to:

1. Advise the Bridgeview Community Association that their grant application appeal does not meet the criteria outlined in the “Policy on City Grants” since no new information was submitted and as such no additional grant funding is available from the City;
2. Advise the Critter Care Wildlife Society that their appeal for additional grant funding does not meet the criteria for appeals as outlined in the “Policy on City Grants” since no new information was submitted and as such no additional grant funding is available from the City;
3. Advise the Bula! Fiji Association of BC that grant funding in relation to their late grant request will not be provided by the City since the amount of the request is beyond the financial scope of the City’s Grant Program; and
4. Provide a grant of \$500 to the Royal Canadian Theatre Company.

BACKGROUND

On November 23, 2009, the Finance Committee approved the 2010 City Grants. Since that time, the City has received grant appeals from the Bridgeview Community Association and Critter Care Wildlife Society. The City has also received late grant applications from Bula! Fiji Association of BC and the Royal Canadian Theatre Company.

DISCUSSION

The Grants Evaluation Committee has considered the two grant appeals and each of two late grant applications.

The “Policy on City Grants” (D26) indicates that appeals will only be considered in instances where additional grant funds are required to prevent unforeseen circumstances, which could result in employee lay-offs or threaten the financial well-being or survival of the organization, or where significant new information is presented that was not available during the grants review

process. The Policy further indicates that late grant requests will only be considered if the requirement for grant funds was not reasonably foreseeable prior to September 30th (i.e., the deadline date by which grant requests are to be submitted to the City for the following year) and if the requirement for immediate funding is critical to the survival of the organization or the event.

The following is a summary of the evaluation of the Grants Committee in relation to the each of the appeals and late grant applications, respectively.

Appeal – Bridgeview Community Association

Prior to the September 30th deadline, the Bridgeview Community Association submitted four separate grant applications as noted in the table below. At that time, it was estimated that each event would benefit 100 to 200 residents. The Grants Evaluation Committee recommended that a City Grant of \$1,000 be provided to support Bridgeview Days. This recommendation was consistent with grant recommendations for other community events of similar size. Council adopted that recommendation.

Event	Project Cost	Association’s Contribution	Request from City	Approved Grant
Bridgeview Days	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,575	\$ 3,425	\$ 1,000
Chinese New Years	\$ 3,180	\$ 1,180	\$2,000	-
Diwali Days	\$ 3,196	\$ 1,196	\$ 2,000	-
Happy Christmas	\$ 3,300	\$ 1,300	\$ 2,000	-

The Bridgeview Community Association has since appealed Council’s decision, noting that each event represents a different community and that celebrations such as those that are listed, help to invoke more interaction and understanding which brings harmony to the community.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has considered this appeal. The Committee has determined that the financial survival of the organization is not threatened, no new information has been presented in relation to the grant requests and the amount of the approved grant to the Association is similar to the amounts given to other Associations holding an event of a similar scale. Based on the criteria outlined in the “Policy on City Grants” (D26), the Grants Evaluation Committee recommends that this appeal not be further considered by Council and that the Bridgeview Community Association be so advised.

Appeal – Critter Care Wildlife Society

Prior to the September 30th deadline, the Critter Care Wildlife Society submitted an application for a City grant in the amount of \$2400 to assist in purchasing new energy efficient freezers that were estimated to cost \$4800. The Grants Evaluation Committee recommended that a City Grant of \$500 be awarded to the Society to assist with the purchase of new freezers. This amount is consistent with contributions to other community projects. Council adopted the recommendations of the Grants Evaluation Committee.

Since that time, the Society has submitted an appeal requesting that Council consider increasing the amount of the grant. The Grants Evaluation Committee has considered this appeal and has determined that the financial survival of the Society is not threatened nor has the Society provided any new information. Based on the criteria outlined in the “Policy on City Grants” (D26), the Grants Evaluation Committee recommends that this appeal not be further considered by Council and that the Society by so advised.

New – Bula! Fiji Association of BC

Bula! Fiji Association of BC is planning an event to be held in October 2010 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Fiji’s independence. The event will include traditional Fijian ceremonies and entertainment as well as multi-cultural dance, songs, poetry and food. The budget for this event is \$15,067.50 with the primary expense being food. The Bula! Fiji Association of BC has secured \$2,000 in support from others and is planning on contributing \$895.50 towards this event from the Association’s own means. The Association is seeking a grant of \$12,172 from the City of Surrey and has indicated that the event will not take place without City Funding. In the past, this Association has held similar events in Burnaby and Vancouver. This year, they are looking at various venue options some of which are located in Surrey. However, the actual location of this event has not yet been determined.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed this grant application and has determined that the financial expectation of the Bula! Fiji Association of BC is beyond the scope of the City’s grant program. The Grants Evaluation Committee recommends that the application be denied.

New – Royal Canadian Theatre Company

The Royal Canadian Theatre Company has submitted a late grant application in the amount of \$5,000 seeking support for their production of “Robin Hood” that ran at the Surrey Arts Centre from December 14th to January 3rd.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed this grant application and has determined that this organization provides a benefit to the community by providing opportunities to those who would not otherwise be exposed to the experience of participating in theatrical productions. The Committee recommends that a grant of \$500 be awarded to the Company to help offset the costs of the referenced production.

Statement of Remaining Funding for Grants:

Should Council approve the Grants Evaluation Committee recommendations, the remaining balance in the City Grant Budget will be as follows:

Special Recognition Funds	\$2,500
Property Taxes	5,000
High School Dry Grads	1,000
One-time Grants	<u>3,775</u>
	<u>\$ 12,275</u>

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