

NO: F006

COUNCIL DATE: March 22, 2010

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **March 17, 2010**

FROM: **General Manager, Finance & Technology** FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **2010 Late Grant Applications**

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## RECOMMENDATION

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

1. Approve a grant of \$2,500 to Brookside Lodge (Baltic Properties) to help off-set their 2010 property taxes;
2. Approve a grant of \$500 to the Can-Lanka Theatre Company on the condition that the Kusa-Paba production goes ahead as planned on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Surrey Arts Centre;
3. Approve a grant of \$1,000 to DiverseCity Community Resources in support of their Cultural Showcase for Seniors;
4. Authorize staff to advise the Polish Canadian Sport & Recreation Club that funding in relation to their late grant request will not be provided by the City as the request does not satisfy the City's grant evaluation criteria;
5. Approve a grant of \$2,500 to the Satnam Education Society of BC to help offset their 2010 property taxes subject to the appropriate occupancy permits being in place;
6. Approve a grant of \$500 to the Surrey Gymnastics Society to offset the cost of bleachers for the Surrey Invitational Gymnastics Meet, and
7. Authorize staff to advise the Vancouver International Festival of Russian Music Society that funding in relation to their late grant request will not be provided by the City as the request does not satisfy the City's grant evaluation criteria.

## BACKGROUND

On November 23, 2009, the Finance Committee approved the 2010 City Grants. Since that time, the City has received late grant applications from Brookside Lodge (Baltic Properties), Can-Lanka Theatre Company, DiverseCity Community Resource Society, Polish Canadian Sport & Recreation Club, Satnam Education Society of BC, Surrey Gymnastic Society and the Vancouver International Festival of Russian Music.

## DISCUSSION

The Grants Evaluation Committee has evaluated the above-referenced late grant applications.

The "Policy on City Grants" (D26) indicates that late grant applications will only be considered in instances where the requirement for grant funds was not reasonably foreseeable prior to September 30<sup>th</sup> of the immediately preceding year (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 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 referenced late grant applications.

### **Brookside Lodge (Baltic Properties)**

Brookside Lodge is a licensed complex care facility that opened in December 2009. This facility operates at total of 116 beds. The Fraser Health Authority funds 102 of these beds. As such, 89% of the 2011 property taxes are eligible for a permissive property tax exemption. Brookside Lodge was not included in the original 2010 permissive property tax exemption list as the facility was not occupied by the subsidized residents at the time the permissive tax exemption applications were due. They have since applied for a City Grant to help off-set their 2010 property taxes. Total taxes for 2009 were \$17,974, of which \$8,525 was the City's portion. If a permissive exemption had been awarded in 2009, the value of the award for the City's portion of property taxes would have been approximately \$7,600.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed this grant application and determined that it meets the grant evaluation criteria. Recognizing that limited funds are available in the one time grants pool, the Grant Evaluation Committee recommends a grant of \$2,500 to Brookside Lodge to help off-set their 2010 property taxes.

### **Can-Lanka Theatre Company**

Can-Lanka Theatre Company has submitted a late grant application seeking \$15,000 in financial support to produce Kusa-Paba, a well-known Sri Lankan love legend. The event is planned to be held at the Surrey Arts Centre on May 21<sup>st</sup>. After discussions with the applicant, it was determined that production expenses are estimated to be \$14,000 and ticket sales are estimated to be \$6,500. The organization has indicated that they are able to contribute \$2,000, reducing the request to the City to \$5,500. Can-Lanka has indicated that they will not proceed without the full requested level of funding.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed this grant application and recommends that a grant of \$500 be awarded on the condition that the Kusa-Paba production goes ahead as scheduled on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Surrey Arts Centre.

### **DiverseCity Community Resource Society**

DiverseCity Community Resource Society is a non-profit organization that supports the integration of immigrants into Surrey and works towards building a strong, culturally diverse community. DiverseCity Community Resource Society represents the Surrey Seniors' Community Planning Table, which is planning to hold a cultural showcase for seniors on June 5th, which is designed to create an opportunity for seniors to celebrate and respect their differences and embrace their similarities. Ten different cultures are currently committed to participating in this

event, which is expected to cost \$3,000. DiverseCity Community Resource Society has requested a grant of \$2,000 from the City.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed this grant application and has determined that this organization provides a benefit to the community by creating an inclusive environment. The Committee recommends that a grant of \$1,000 be awarded to the DiverseCity Community Resource Society for their "Cultural Showcase for Seniors".

#### **Polish Canadian Sport & Recreation Club**

The Polish Canadian Sport & Recreation Club has requested support for the Polish Paralympics "Welcome Reception" that was held at the Surrey Art Centre on March 16<sup>th</sup>. This event was intended to bring together the Polish community and to introduce the Polish Paralympic Team. The event was expected to cost \$5,100 with ticket prices set at \$10. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Polish Paralympic Committee.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed the grant application and has concluded that it does not meet with the grant evaluation policy no. D-26(10(f)) as the applicant organization acts as a general fund-raiser for other groups or organizations.

#### **Satnam Education Society of BC**

The Satnam Education Society operates a non-profit educational facility. Satnam Education Society submitted an application for a 2010 permissive property tax exemption; however they did not qualify as they did not have the required occupancy permits in place prior to the permissive property tax exemption deadline. Satnam Education Society applied for a City grant to help off-set their 2010 property taxes. Total taxes for the educational facility for 2009 were \$128,893, of which \$56,300 were the City's portion. If a permissive exemption had been awarded in 2009, the value of the award for the City's portion of property taxes would have been approximately \$7,500, since only a portion of the property would have qualified for an exemption.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed this grant application and recommends a grant of \$2,500 be awarded to the Satnam Education Society of BC to help off-set the 2010 property taxes for the educational facility, subject to the facility having the necessary occupancy permits in place.

#### **Surrey Gymnastic Society**

The Surrey Gymnastic Society, a non-profit gymnastic club, has requested financial support to help off-set the cost of bleachers for the Surrey Invitational Gymnastics Meet that was held at the Guildford Recreation Centre from March 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed this grant application and has determined that this organization provides a benefit to the community by promoting active living. The Committee recommends that a grant of \$500 be awarded to the Surrey Gymnastics Society to help offset the costs of providing bleacher for this event.

#### **Vancouver International Festival of Russian Music Society (VIFORM)**

The Vancouver International Festival of Russian Music Society has requested financial support for their International Festival of Russian Music that was held in Vancouver on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. This festival is designed to promote music of famous Russian Composers.

The Grants Evaluation Committee has reviewed the grant application and recommends that a grant not be provided as the event provides limited benefit to Surrey with it having been held in Vancouver.

***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	0
High School Dry Grads	900
One-time Grants	<u>1,775</u>
	<u>\$ 5,175</u>

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