

NO: **F009**

COUNCIL DATE: **May 3, 2010**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **April 27, 2010**

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

FILE: **1820-10**

SUBJECT: **Community Enhancement Partnership Program Grants**

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. Approve a grant of \$3,000 to the Rotary Club of Surrey for a landscaping project at 96 Ave. And 138A Street as generally described in this report; and
2. Approve a grant of \$1,000 to the Halls Prairie Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee for a neighbourhood and school clean-up project in conjunction with the Hall's Prairie Elementary School 125th Anniversary celebration all as generally described in this report.

BACKGROUND

On January 25, 2010, Council adopted the Community Enhancement Partnership Program (CEPP), which was developed to provide support for community engagement and beautification projects. Under CEPP a resident group or organization may apply to the City for a grant under either of two separate grant categories, being; (1) a small project grant that will assist resident groups in planning, organizing and implementing projects intended to directly improve the physical aesthetic appeal of a neighbourhood; and (2) a partnership grant that will support resident organizations in developing membership for an association and building community relationships. The CEPP program has an annual budget of \$25,000.

The community was notified of this new program through stakeholder mail-outs, newspaper ads, press releases, promotional posters at civic facilities and on the City's website. A grant selection committee was established with representatives from each of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, the Planning and Development Department and the Finance and Technology Department. The committee has since received and reviewed applications from the Rotary Club of Surrey and the Hall's Prairie Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION

Rotary Club of Surrey

The Rotary Club of Surrey has applied for a small projects grant to support a landscaping project on the north side of 96Ave between 138th Street and 138A Street. The site is an unsightly and overgrown ditch within 96A Avenue road allowance and a remainder strip along a parking area near the Surrey Memorial Hospital. The work that is proposed to be undertaken includes the removal of weeds, blackberries and garbage, the tilling and preparation of soil and the landscaping and planting of 200 native flowering shrubs and plants. Mulch will be placed throughout the site to create a clean and easy to maintain area. The Rotary Club has committed to include members of the community and students from nearby K.B Woodward elementary school in the project. Following the project's completion the Rotary Club has committed to maintaining the site. The project will improve the appearance of the street with a reduction in maintenance obligations for the City. The total value of the project is estimated at \$7,900.

Based on a review of the project against CEPP criteria, it is recommended that a grant of \$3,000 be provided to the Rotary Club, subject to the following conditions:

- The provision of a letter to the Engineering Department from the Rotary Club committing to the ongoing maintenance of the area; and
- Picture documentation of the progress of the project, including photographs of the area before, during and upon completion of the project.

Halls Prairie Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

The Halls Prairie Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee has applied for a partnership grant to support the celebration of their school's 125th year anniversary. The PAC along with staff, students, families and the community are celebrating this occasion with a range of activities during the week of May 10-15, 2010 culminating in celebrations at their annual country market. Activities will include the purchase and planting of a commemorative Pacific Dogwood tree on school grounds, a neighbourhood and school clean-up of the banks of the Little Campbell River, which flows adjacent to the school grounds and additions to the school's 'Stream of Dreams' fence enhancement with participating students. These activities will culminate with a celebration taking place at the Annual County Market. The total value of the project is estimated at \$2,500, and the PAC and school has committed over 100 volunteer hours for the project.

Based on a review of the project against CEPP criteria, it is recommended that a grant of \$1,000 be provided to the PAC subject to the following conditions:

- Photographic documentation of each of the volunteer clean-up of the banks of the Little Campbell River; the planting of the commemorative Pacific Dogwood tree; and, the activities associated with the additions to the school's 'Stream of Dreams' fence enhancement.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The CEPP program supports the Sustainability Charter by encouraging social connections, volunteerism, community ownership and citizen engagement. The two CEPP grant applications specifically support the Socio-Cultural goals related to creating neighbourhoods that have distinct identities, diverse populations, lively public spaces (SC6) and to promoting a variety of opportunities for community celebration and gathering through local events (SC13).

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion it is recommended that the Finance Committee recommend that Council:

- Approve a grant of \$3,000 to the Rotary Club of Surrey for a landscaping project at 96 Ave. And 138A Street as generally described in this report; and
- Approve a grant of \$1,000 to the Halls Prairie Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee for a neighbourhood and school clean-up project in conjunction with the Hall's Prairie Elementary School 125th Anniversary celebration all as generally described in this report.

Vivienne Wilke, CGA
General Manager,
Finance & Technology