

NO: F011

COUNCIL DATE: May 17, 2010

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

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

FILE: **1850-01**

SUBJECT: **Community Enhancement Partnership Program Grants**

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## RECOMMENDATION

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

1. Approve a grant of \$3,000 to the residents of the Lexington Townhouse Development (BCS 476) for a boulevard landscaping and beautification project at 16995 - 64<sup>th</sup> Ave as generally described in this report; and
2. Approve a grant of \$1,500 to the residents of the Lakebridge Townhouse Complex (LMS 3144) for community entrance, boulevard beautification and clean-up project at the NE corner of Scott Rd and Hwy 10 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 two separate grant categories:

- Small Project Grant - to assist resident groups in planning, organizing and implementing projects intended to directly improve the physical aesthetic appeal of a neighbourhood; or
- Partnership Grant - to support resident organizations that build community relationships and encourage beautification through celebration and activity. The CEPP 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 selections committee was established with representatives from various departments and has been assessing grant applications on an ongoing basis. The committee has most recently received and reviewed applications from the residents of the Lexington and Lakebridge townhouse complexes.

## DISCUSSION

### **Lexington Townhouse Development**

The residents of the Lexington Townhouse Development have applied for a small projects grant, in the amount of \$3,000, to support landscaping and beautification efforts along approximately 300 meters of boulevard adjacent to 64<sup>th</sup> Ave, east of 169<sup>th</sup> St. The site, currently maintained by the Lexington Strata, features a mixed use pathway running the extent of the boulevard. The pathway is buffered by under maintained and unsightly flowerbeds, interspersed with stunted and damaged conifer trees. Urban forestry has commented that the existing plantings are unsuitable for the location and present sightline issues for traffic. Proposed work includes the removal of all unsuitable conifer trees and unsightly plants, to be replaced with 12-16 Crimson King Maples (recommendation of Parks Operations). These will be complimented with the addition of flowering trees, such as cherry, and the planting of assorted shrubs and flowering plants on the property side of the mixed use pathway. Following the project, the Strata will continue its commitment to the maintenance of the boulevard, with exception to the new boulevard trees which will enter the City's inventory and maintenance schedule. The residents have committed 120 hours of volunteer labour to the project, as well as cash. The project, valued at \$8,268, will improve the appearance of the avenue and will result in the planting of 12-16 new street trees.

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

- The provision of a letter to the Engineering Department from the Lexington Townhouse Strata committing to the continued maintenance of the boulevard, with exception to the new boulevard trees which will enter the City's inventory and maintenance schedule.
- Picture documentation of the progress of the project, including photographs of the area before, during and upon completion of the project.

### **Lakebridge Townhouse Complex**

The residents of the Lakebridge Townhouse Complex have applied for a small projects grant, in the amount of \$3,000, to support landscaping and beautification efforts around the exterior of the complex, including the property's interface with Hwy 10 and Scott Rd, an important entrance point to the City. The project area lies on private, City and Ministry of Transportation and Highways property. A mixed use pathway runs the extent of Hwy 10 on the property's south perimeter converging on a series of landscaped beds at the NE corner of the Scott Road intersection. The area currently features sparse plantings of shrubs and conifers. The area appears generally rundown and lacks attention. Proposed work includes the removal of debris, maintenance and trimming, landscaping and the planting of additional shrubs and annuals. The residents have committed approximately 300 volunteer hours. The project, valued at \$8,555, will improve the appearance of the property interface, as well as the entrance point to the City.

Based on a review of the project against CEPP criteria, the Selections Committee has determined that not all of the proposed work qualifies for grant consideration as there is overlap with the existing maintenance and financial responsibility of the Strata. It is therefore recommended that a grant of only \$1,500 be provided to the residents of the Lakebridge Townhouse Development, subject to the residents documenting the progress of the project, including photographs of the area before, during and upon completion of the project.

### **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The CEPP supports the implementation of the Sustainability Charter by encouraging social connections, volunteerism, community ownership and citizen engagement. These grant applications specifically support the Socio-Cultural goals pertaining to the development of neighbourhood identity, social connection and the facilitation of community gathering.

### **CONCLUSION**

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

1. Approve a grant of \$3,000 to the residents of the Lexington Townhouse Development (BCS 476) for a boulevard landscaping and beautification project at 16995 - 64<sup>th</sup> Ave as generally described in this report; and
2. Approve a grant of \$1,500 to the residents of the Lakebridge Townhouse Complex (LMS 3144) for community entrance, boulevard beautification and clean-up project at the NE corner of Scott Rd and Hwy 10, as generally described in this report.

Vivienne Wilke, CGA  
General Manager  
Finance & Technology