

NO: R092

COUNCIL DATE: May 3, 2010

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **April 23, 2010**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation
and Culture; City Clerk** FILE: **6140 - 20/D**

SUBJECT: **Public Special Occasion License Request – Darts Hill Gardens Event: “An
Evening of the Arts at Darts”**

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 an event named “An Evening of the Arts at Darts” that is being held on June 22, 2010 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 certain 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 and 2009 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 in each year. 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 past events, 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 have been used for various projects in the Gardens. The events have raised awareness of the Gardens. The sale of wine at past events 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 22rd, 2010 (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 2010 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 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 previous events. 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 2010 event depending on the weather. The event will be marketed by way of advertisements in the local newspapers.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The subject event will assist the City in meeting the following goals of the City's Sustainability Charter:

- Socio-Cultural Goal 12, which is to establish a range of local cultural and entertainment opportunities throughout the City; and
- Socio-Cultural Goal 13, which is to promote a variety of opportunities for community celebration and gathering through local and City-wide events and festivals.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve a Public Special Occasion License to the Society for the "An Evening of the Arts at Darts" event scheduled for June 22nd, 2010 at Darts Hill Gardens.

Jane Sullivan
City Clerk

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Attachment – Appendix 1: Letter from Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society

cc: RCMP, Surrey Detachment

Appendix 1



Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society

April 21, 2010

Dear Mayor and Council:

The Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society in cooperation with the City's Partners in Parks Program, is once again planning ***A Special Evening of the Arts At Darts*** for June 22, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. This will be our third year and we are looking forward to an evening showcasing local artists as well as providing garden enthusiasts an opportunity to see the garden in the special light of evening—this is the only time during the year that the garden is open for evening hours. Last year, we estimated that about 1200 visitors attended this event and we received a full page write-up in the *Peace Arch News*.

We have been very fortunate to have received quite a bit of local press lately, in Steve Whysall's column, our local papers and most recently with a segment on Shaw TV's show, *The Express*. We have been highlighting our volunteer and educational opportunities such as plant propagation, guiding and the plant labeling project which is now underway. This important project provides the public with precise information regarding the name and origin of our plants as well as providing the City with an updated inventory of the plants found at the Garden.

This year, ***Arts at Darts*** will feature an even wider range of artists including wood carving, jewelry, dance, painting and photography, all within the theme *The Garden Speaks*. Additionally, the Society will provide garden tours free to the public and there will be signs sprinkled throughout the garden with notes and quotes from Francisca Darts. We hope that this enhances the experience for new visitors and reminds returning friends of the exceptional nature of this special garden.

As this event has already received a City permit, it is hoped that Council can also 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 the Beer Gardens have been issued for the season, but are hoping that Council will again see this as a nice touch that will add to the ambiance of the evening. The Society is willing to work closely with Staff and the RCMP to ensure that special requirements are met. Of course, all net revenues from the sales of wine are put back into programs in the Garden.

We appreciate your continued support of the garden and enjoy operating in partnership with the City. We would love to see you in the garden soon—Spring is one of the best times to visit to see the magnificent rhododendrons in full bloom as well as so many other beautiful flowering plants.

Sincerely,

Linda Stanley Wilson

Linda Stanley Wilson, Ph.D.

Chair, Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society

