

NO: **R100**

COUNCIL DATE: **May 30, 2011**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 3, 2011**

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 and the City Clerk recommend 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 21, 2011 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 “open to the public” days and raises funds for special garden projects such as plant labelling and plant propagation.

On an annual basis, during each year since 2008 the Society has organized an event called “**An Evening of the Arts at Darts**”, which showcases the Gardens and raises public awareness about the Gardens among Surrey and lower mainland residents. Last year, more than 1200 visitors attended the event. The event includes musicians, painters, sculptors and performers. The Gardens are open to the public for the evening without admission fees and guided tours are available to those who attend. As part of the event in previous years, 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 are used for various projects in the Gardens. The sale of wine during past events has not cause any concerns and added to the patrons’ enjoyment of the event.

The Society is proposing to hold the 2011 event at the Gardens on June 21st (See the letter from the society attached as Appendix 1).

DISCUSSION

The Society is working with Parks staff in the planning of the 2011 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 more than 1000 people will attend the 2011 event, depending on the weather. The event will be marketed by way of advertisements in the local newspapers.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Darts Hill Garden annual event assists in achieving the following goals of the City's Sustainability Charter:

- Socio-Cultural Goal #12: Establishing a range of local cultural and entertainment opportunities throughout the City; and
- Socio-Cultural Goal #13: Promoting 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 21st, 2011 at Darts Hill Gardens.

Jane Sullivan
City Clerk

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix 1: Letter, dated May 2, 2011, from Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society

cc: RCMP, Surrey Detachment

Appendix 1



Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society

May 2, 2011

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 21, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. This will be our fourth 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, over 1200 visitors attended this event and we received many write-ups in local papers, including several foreign language papers.

In addition to offering the public a chance to chat with artists in a beautiful garden setting, we are able to support our ongoing volunteer and educational opportunities with the donations that come in from our Arts at Darts event.

This year, *Arts at Darts* will continue to feature a wide range of artists including wood carving, jewelry, dance, painting and photography, all within the theme *A Garden of Dreams*. 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.

Concurrent with this letter, we are filing a Special Event Request. As in years past, it is hoped that Council will 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. Our next Open House is May 28 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and is part of the Environmental Extravaganza, with many special activities planned.

Sincerely,

Linda Stanley Wilson

Linda Stanley Wilson, Ph.D.

Chair, Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society

