

NO: F002

COUNCIL DATE: January 24, 2011

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 21, 2011**

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

FILE: **1850-01**

SUBJECT: **Community Enhancement Partnership Program Grants**

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. Approve a grant of up to \$3,000, subject to conditions as listed in this report, to the 112th Avenue Neighbourhood Association to support a clean-up and boulevard landscaping project on 131 street between 112 Avenue and 112A Avenue as generally described in this report; and
2. Approve a grant of \$250, subject to conditions as listed in this report, to the Annieville – Royal Heights Advocates to support a neighbourhood event at the Annieville Slough as generally described in this report.

BACKGROUND

In January 2010 Council adopted the Community Enhancement Partnership Program (CEPP), which is focused on providing financial support to Surrey resident groups for community engagement and beautification projects. Under CEPP, residents and community groups may apply to the City for a grant under either of two separate grant categories:

- **Small Project Grants** - to support planning, organizing and implementing projects intended to directly improve the physical aesthetic appeal of a neighbourhood; or
- **Partnership Grants** - to support projects that act to beautify the City or build community relationships through celebration and neighbourhood activities.

The CEPP has an annual budget of \$25,000.

This new Program was communicated to the community through mail-outs to community associations and other groups, newspaper ads, press releases, promotional posters at civic facilities and on the City's website. A grant evaluation committee was established with representatives from various Departments to evaluate grant applications that are received. Council has approved nine grants to date under this program.

DISCUSSION

112th Avenue Neighbourhood Association

The 112th Avenue Neighbourhood Association (the “Association”) has applied for a CEPP “small projects” grant to assist with an area clean-up and boulevard landscaping project on 131 Street between 112 Avenue and 112A Avenue. The boulevard and adjacent vacant property is unsightly and prone to illegal dumping activity. The boulevard is over grown with weeds, brush and blackberries.

The Association is proposing a local area clean-up and landscaping project along the subject block of 131 Street. Proposed work includes site preparation, which would involve the removal of garbage, invasive shrubs, blackberries and dead trees from the boulevard. The deteriorating concrete no-post barriers would be replaced with a log rail barrier to deter further illegal dumping. Soil would be spread over the cleared areas and these areas would be landscaped and maintained indefinitely by the Neighbourhood Association. The result will be reduced illegal dumping activity and the creation of 70 meters of clean and maintained boulevard.

The Association has committed, through resident signatures, 229 hours of volunteer labour and a cash contribution of \$1,250. They are requesting a CEPP “small projects” grant of \$3,000.

Based on City estimates, the project has a value in excess of \$10,000 and will reduce illegal dumping, improve the appearance of the neighbourhood and provide better pedestrian access to the households on 112A Avenue. The Association has committed to the long term maintenance of all landscaping. Engineering staff has reviewed the proposal and support the proposed work.

Based on a review of the project against CEPP criteria, it is recommended that a grant of \$3,000 be provided to the 112th Avenue Neighbourhood Association for the subject project, subject to the following conditions:

- That the Association work under the direction of City staff to ensure construction standards are followed on road right-of-way;
- The Association provide a letter to the Engineering Operations Division confirming that the Association will maintain the landscaping features on 131st Street on an on-going basis; and,
- That the Association submit photographs documenting the progress of the project.

Annieville – Royal Heights Advocates

The Annieville – Royal Heights Advocates group has applied for a CEPP “partnership” grant to host a free event at the Annieville Slough on May 14, 2011. The goal of the event is to celebrate the history of the Annieville Slough, which was the site of the first cannery in British Columbia and the historic Searle grain elevator. The Annieville Slough is located off the West side of River Road at the south end of the Fraser Dock Lands. The group also hopes to raise awareness of the environmental sensitivity of the slough by way of a guided walk of the area.

The proposed event would be the first of what the Advocates hope to turn into an annual event. Residents will be involved in the planning and implementation of the event, including marketing the event to the residents in the broader area. The applicants have committed, through resident signatures, 20 hours of volunteer labour and are requesting a partnership grant of \$500.

The event will present an opportunity to build community spirit. Based on a review of the project against CEPP criteria, it is recommended that a grant of \$250 be provided to the Annieville – Royal Heights Advocates for the event on the condition that photographs be submitted to the City documenting the event.

Funding

Appendix I provides information on the status of funding related to the Community Enhancement Partnership Program on the assumption that Council approves the recommendations of this report.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The CEPP Program supports the Sustainability Charter objectives by encouraging social connections, volunteerism, community ownership and citizen engagement, in accordance with the Sustainability Charter Goals SC 6, 7, 8 and 13.

CONCLUSION

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

- Approve a grant of up to \$3,000 (subject to conditions as listed in this report) to the 112th Avenue Neighbourhood Association to support a clean-up and boulevard landscaping project on 131 street between 112 Avenue and 112A Avenue as generally described in this report; and
- Approve a grant of \$250 (subject to conditions as listed in this report) to the Annieville – Royal Heights Advocates to support a neighbourhood event at the Annieville Slough as generally described in this report.

Vivienne Wilke, CGA
General Manager
Finance & Technology

Appendix I: Status of Community Enhancement Partnership Program Funding



**2011 FINANCIAL PLAN
COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

Description	Amount	Allocation to Date	Remaining
2009 Budget Allocation	\$25,000.00		
2010 Budget Allocation	\$25,000.00		
2011 Budget Allocation	\$25,000.00		\$75,000.00
Rotary Club of Surrey	\$ 3,000.00		
Halls Prairie Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee	\$ 1,000.00		
Lexington Townhouse Development	\$ 3,000.00		
Lakebridge Townhouse Complex	\$ 1,500.00		
Riverdale Junior Leadership Group	\$ 1,500.00		
East Panorama Ridge Community Assoc. - Partnership	\$ 600.00		
East Panorama Ridge Community Assoc. - Small Projects	\$ 1,200.00		
Surrey Crime Prevention Society	\$ 3,000.00		
AHP Matthew Elementary School PAC	\$ 2,000.00		
112 Ave Neighbourhood Association	\$ 3,000.00		
Anniveille – Royal Heights Advocates	\$ 250.00		
Total Allocations to date		\$20,050.00	\$54,950.00