

NO: **F016**

COUNCIL DATE: **April 2, 2012**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **March 27, 2012**

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

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **Late Grant Applications for 2012**

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance & Technology Department recommends that the Finance Committee recommend that Council approve the following "One Time Grants":

- a grant of \$500 to the Bethany-Newton United Church for an Environmental Symposium as generally described in this report; and
- a grant of \$5,000 to the Kinsmen Lodge to assist in offsetting the costs associated with 2012 municipal property taxes related to their property at 9650 - 137A Street and a further grant of \$1,750 to purchase and install a safety lift at that same facility.

BACKGROUND

On January 16, 2012, the Finance Committee approved the City's 2012 Grants. Since that time, staff has received late grant applications from Bethany-Newton United Church, DiverseCity Community Resources, and the Kinsmen Lodge. This report describes these applications and an evaluation of each application using the City's Grant criteria.

DISCUSSION

The "Policy on City Grants" (D26) provides that late grant applications will only be considered in instances where the requirement for grant funding was not reasonably foreseeable prior to September 30th of the immediately preceding year (i.e., the deadline date by which grant requests are to be submitted to the City for the following year) and if the requirement for funding is critical to the survival of the organization or the event.

The following is a brief description of each of the late applications for grants that has been received and an evaluation of each such application.

Bethany-Newton United Church

Bethany-Newton United Church is hosting an Environmental Symposium from June 1st to 5th, 2012 and has submitted a request for a grant in the amount of \$500 to support this event. This Conference is seeking to engage theology with key ecological concerns from a variety of religious traditions and perspectives. It will support multi-disciplinary exchanges and insights, with a focus on faith-based and scientific approaches to ecological problems and challenges with an emphasis on building a sustainable ecological future. Conference speakers will include Lucas Andrianos, author of "Ecological Theology and Environmental Ethics" and "Conservation and

Sustainable Use of Wild Plant Diversity"; Alexandros Papaderos, who has previously held senior positions at the Greece Ministry of Education and the New University of Crete; Sallie McFague, author of "A New Climate for Theology: God, the World, and Global Warming", and Anna Mathewson, the City's Sustainability Manager.

Staff has evaluated this application against the City's "One Time" Grants policy and has determined that a grant of \$500 is supportable under the policy as the idea for the Conference was conceived since the deadline for 2012 grant applications.

DiverseCity Community Resources

The DiverseCity Community Resources organization has submitted an application for a grant to support their Senior and Youth Theatre Group. The goal of this initiative is to elevate senior's issues and to dispel stereotypes while building relationships between seniors and youth.

This is the second grant request from DiverseCity Community Resources for 2012. They have received a grant of \$1,500 for their Seniors Intercultural Showcase. The Theatre Group initiative began in early 2011 and as such the request would have been foreseeable prior to the 2012 grant submission deadline in September 2011. The Grants Evaluation Committee has determined that this late grant application does not meet the criteria for approval.

Kinsmen Lodge

The Kinsmen Lodge organization operates a 157-bed senior-care facility in North Surrey which also provides over 30,000 meals annually through their meals-on-wheels program to seniors who are living independently. They have requested that the City provide a property tax exemption for their new 157-bed seniors care facility at 9650 - 137A Street, which they occupied in January 2012. They are also seeking support for their "Honouring Elders" fund-raising campaign through a contribution to assist in funding the purchase and installation of 85 safety lifts that act to assist seniors in getting into and out of bed. These lifts cost \$1,750 to purchase and install.

Due to the timing of their occupancy of their new building, the Kinsmen Lodge was not able to receive a permissive property tax exemption for 2012. The municipal portion of their 2012 property taxes is estimated to be \$49,000. The 2012 City Grants budget has a balance of \$5,000 available for the purpose of offsetting property taxes to eligible organizations. The Grants Evaluation Committee has determined that the request for property tax assistance from the Kinsmen Lodge meets the City's Grant Policy criteria and recommends that \$5,000 be provided to the Kinsman Lodge to assist in offsetting the 2012 municipal property taxes related to their new facility at 9650 - 137A Street.

With respect to the "safety lift" request, the Grants Evaluation Committee has determined based on the City's "One Time" Grant policy that a grant is supportable and recommends in the context of available resources a grant of \$1,750 for the purpose of funding the acquisition and installation of one such safety lift.

Remaining Funding in the 2012 Grants Budget:

Based on an assumption that Council will approve the recommendations of this report, the remaining balances in the City Grants Budget are:

Special Recognition Funds	\$2,500
Property Taxes	0
High School Dry Grads	1,200
One-time Grants	<u>7,525</u>
	<u>\$ 11,225</u>

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