

NO: **R073**

COUNCIL DATE: **MAY 11, 2015**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **April 23, 2015**

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

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 June 20, 2015 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 and operating Darts Hill Garden Park (the “Garden”). 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.

Since 2008, the Society has organized events called ***“An Evening of the Arts at Darts”***, which showcases the Garden and raises public awareness about Darts. Last year, more than 1,200 visitors attended the event, which included musicians, painters, sculptors and performers. This year the Society is partnering with the Surrey Art Gallery Association and the Arts Council of Surrey, inviting numerous artists to showcase their art within the Garden during the event. New this year will be a silent auction fund-raiser, where six Adirondack chairs painted by local artists will be auctioned.

The Garden will be open to the public for the evening without admission fees and guided tours will be available. As part of the event in some previous years, wine was sold under a Public Special Occasion License. Donations during the event and net proceeds from the sale of wine are used for various projects in the Garden. The sale of wine during past events has not caused any concerns, adding to the patrons’ enjoyment of the evening.

The Society is proposing to hold the 2015 event at the Garden on June 20st (See the letter from the society attached as **Appendix I**).

DISCUSSION

The Society is working with Parks staff in the planning of the 2015 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 following 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 2015 event, depending on the weather. The event will be marketed by way of advertisements in the local newspapers.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

This Garden 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, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the City Clerk recommend that Council approve a Public Special Occasion License for an event named "***An Evening of the Arts at Darts***" that is being held June 20, 2015 at Darts Hill Garden Park.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Jane Sullivan
City Clerk

Appendix I: Letter, dated April 24, 2015 from Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society

cc: RCMP, Surrey Detachment

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DARTS HILL GARDEN CONSERVANCY TRUST SOCIETY

April 24, 2015

Dear Mayor and Council:

The Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society, in cooperation with the City's Partners in Parks Program, is planning its seventh annual evening of **Arts at Darts** on Saturday, June 20, 2015, from 4 to 8 p.m. The event will showcase over 20 local artists and attract a large number of visitors to this historic Plantsman's garden. In the past, as many as 1200 visitors have attended an Evening of the Arts at Darts.

Guides and Master Gardeners will be on hand to provide interpretive information that will enhance the visitors' experience in the garden. This year, there will be a special addition to the event - a silent auction of Adirondack chairs painted by some of the participating artists.

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 musical entertainment. The Society is willing to work closely with City Staff and the RCMP to ensure that all requirements are met. All net revenues from the sales of wine are put back into programs in the garden.

We appreciate your ongoing support of the garden and hope that you can come out to see the results of your contribution to the Darts Hill pond renovation project. The pond is complete and ready for planting. Together with coordinating basalt walls in the adjoining meet and greet area, it creates a dramatic impact for visitors as they enter the main part of the garden.

The Society and its many volunteers enjoy working in cooperation with the City of Surrey. We are open now every Saturday during the peak months of April, May, June, and September and would love to see you in the garden soon.

Sincerely,



Nancy Oike, Chair
Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society



An organisation working in partnership with the City of Surrey
to ensure the preservation of Darts Hill Garden Park.

