

NO: R166

COUNCIL DATE: July 27, 2015

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **July 27, 2015**
FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development** FILE: **7910-0061-00**
SUBJECT: **Semiahmoo House Society Grant Request**

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Authorize the City Clerk to forward a copy of this report and the related Council resolution to Mr. Doug Tennant, Executive Director of the Semiahmoo House Society.

BACKGROUND

At the Council-in-Committee Meeting on June 15, 2015, Mr. Doug Tennant, Executive Director of Semiahmoo House Society (the "Society") appeared as a delegation requesting that Council contribute financially to the Society's apartment building project located at 2350 - 153 Street. The Society is a non-profit organization that provides services and support to people with developmental disabilities. The Society has been providing service and support to people with developmental disabilities and their families in Surrey since 1958.

In 2010, the Society applied to amend the Official Community Plan, Local Area Plan and Zoning By-law to permit the development of a multi-family project. The four-storey apartment project consists of 71 self-contained affordable and inclusive units.

The Society is requesting a \$1.0 million grant from the City to contribute towards affordable housing units that will be offered for rent to eligible tenants.

DISCUSSION

On March 31, 2008, City Council approved the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with the BC Housing Management Commission. The MOU established a partnership between the City and the Province with respect to the development of supportive housing initiatives in Surrey. Since the execution of this MOU, three projects have been delivered in partnership with BC Housing:

- Alder Gardens, located in Newton;
- The Quibble Creek Health and Phoenix Transition Housing Centre, located in the Hospital Precinct; and
- Timber Grove, located in City Centre.

On July 8, 2013, Council adopted the Master Plan for Housing the Homeless (the "Homeless Plan"). The Homeless Plan outlines priorities, as follow:

- The creation of an additional 450 units of transitional and supported housing for people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness;
- The replacement of the Gateway emergency shelter facility in Whalley with a new purpose-built facility that also incorporates transitional housing units;
- Supportive housing, shelter and drop-in services that focus on vulnerable population groups that have unique needs including children, youth, women, Aboriginal people, and homeless people with more complex issues; and
- Continuing to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with BC Housing, Fraser Health Authority, the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society, and other government funds and foundations.

On February 3, 2014 (Corporate Report No. R020;2014), Council approved moving forward with replacement of the Gateway emergency shelter and the addition of supportive housing to be included in a new project. Staff are currently finalizing the MOU for this project for execution by the Mayor and BC Housing. This project is one of the highest priorities of the Homeless Plan to address homelessness. At this time Council has committed financial resources for MOU projects with BC Housing that are specifically addressing the recommendations of the Homeless Plan. Semiahmoo House, which is an excellent project, falls outside of the core deliverables of the Homeless Plan and the funding associated with it. As such, staff are not recommending further funding.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

A partnership with the Province of BC on the development of a new purpose-built homeless shelter and transitional housing facility is consistent with and supportive of the objectives of the Sustainability Charter (*SC9: Adequate, Appropriate and Affordable Housing*) and is Council's highest priority.

CONCLUSION

Although the Semiahmoo Housing project is addressing a segment of the housing continuum in Surrey by proposing market affordable units, the Homeless Plan has not identified this project as one of the key deliverables in the short term. Staff will continue to collaborate with the Society in helping to expedite the approval process, which will contribute in facilitating delivery of this excellent project.

Based on the above it is recommended that Council authorize the City Clerk to forward a copy of this report and the related Council resolution to Mr. Doug Tennant, Executive Director of the Semiahmoo House Society.

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning and Development

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