

**DISTRICT OF SOOKE
COMMUNITY GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 14, 2014
7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber

Committee Members Present:

Councillor Kerrie Reay, Chair
Councillor Bev Berger
Councillor Rick Kasper
Patricia Baye
Alexander Chandler

Staff: Brent Blackhall, Deputy Director of Finance
Sarah Temple, Finance and Administration Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda:

MOVED and seconded to approve the agenda as circulated.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED and seconded to approve the minutes of October 24, 2013 as circulated.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Staff Report/Presentation:

Brent Blackhall reviewed the eligibility criteria for Category A and B Community Grants and provided an overview of the screening procedures, as outlined in Policy 5.1, *Community Grant Program Policy, 2013*.

Mr. Blackhall provided a report outlining the total requests for grant funding and the amounts available for disbursement.

4. Category A grants that have been awarded:

Mr. Blackhall provided an overview of the Category A grants that have been awarded.

5. Category A grant applications – changes to existing grants:

Presentations were made from the following groups:

Sooke Food Bank Society

- Kim Metzger, representing the Sooke Food Bank Society, addressed the Committee and reviewed the request for funding. The Food Bank is requesting an increase in funding to offset the increasing cost of milk.

Sooke Lion's Club – Canada Day Society

- Brent Blackhall reviewed the Sooke Lion's Club request for funding for Canada Day celebrations. Sooke Lion's Club has taken over organization of the event and have missed the deadline for federal Celebrate Canada funding of \$2000. The request for additional funding from the District is for one year only, to make up for the missed Federal funding opportunity.

Sooke Region Food CHI Society

- Phoebe Dunbar and Anita Wasiuta, representing the Sooke Region Food CHI Society, addressed the Committee and reviewed the request for funding.
- The request for additional funding is to upgrade harvesting procedures to include Food Safe practices and to install a harvest shed for storage. Additionally this funding will support a harvesting coordinator.

EMCS Society

- Ebony Logins, representing the EMCS Society, addressed the Committee and reviewed the request for funding.
- The EMCS Society is starting a new program called the Youth Engagement Project. The request for funding is to support this new program, which incorporates an expanded age bracket.

Public Input:

- There was no public input.

Committee Discussion:

The Committee discussed the grant funding applications and determined funding recommendations:

- Lion's Club Canada Day to received additional funding for one year only; 2015 Category A amount to revert to \$4,000.
- Sooke Region Food CHI Society to receive a one year increase to Category A funding; 2015 Category A amount to revert to \$7,000. One time capital costs associated with the storage facilities to be funded by Category B grant.

MOVED and seconded to recommend that Council fund the Sooke Food Bank Society request for \$2,370 in full.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED and seconded to recommend that Council fund the Sooke Lion's Club request for an additional \$2,000.

AND THAT this additional amount be funded for one year only.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED and seconded to recommend that Council fund the Sooke Region Food CHI Society the amount of \$9,160 from the Category A grants for one year only;

AND THAT Council fund the Sooke Region Food CHI Society an additional \$1,140 from the Category B grants

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED and seconded to recommend that Council fund the EMCS Society request for \$7,000 in full.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Category A grant applications – new applications:

Presentations were made from the following groups:

BC Conservation Foundation

- Debbie Read, representing the BC Conservation Foundation, addressed the Committee and reviewed the request for funding. Funding from the District of Sooke would allow the Wildsafe BC program to be delivered to the Sooke Region, which is the 6th busiest region in the province for Human-Bear conflict complaints.

Public Input:

- There was no public input.

Committee Discussion:

- Concerns as to perceived “downloading” of cost by the Province. WildSafe BC is a province-wide program managed by the BC Conservation Foundation with 43% of funding coming from the Ministry of Environment.
- The Wildsafe BC program is currently being operated in Sooke on a volunteer basis. Ms. Read stated that 29 other municipalities in the province have WildSafe BC programs.
- Sooke is the only municipality in the CRD with a WildSafe BC program currently operating. Ms. Read stated that efforts have been concentrated on Sooke and that other municipalities in the CRD receive fewer bear complaints and therefore haven’t been approached as of yet. Ms. Read stated that a long-term goal would be to expand the program to these municipalities.

MOVED and seconded to refer discussion of funding for the BC Conservation Foundation to Regular Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society

Frank Hudson, representing the Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society, addressed the Committee and reviewed the request for funding. Mr. Hudson reviewed the successes of the past year and registration numbers to date for the 2014 event.

Public Input:

- There was no public input.

Committee Discussion:

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- A requirement of the October 2014 Category B funding for the greater Victoria Bike to Work Society was that there was to be an event held in Sooke.
- Mr. Hudson shared an potential opportunity for a bike skills workshop to be held at Journey Middle School. The committee provided contact information for the school and encouraged Mr. Hudson to contact them directly.

MOVED and seconded to recommend that Council fund the Greater Victoria Bike to Work Week Society request for \$500 in full.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. April 30, 2014 Category B grant applications:

Presentations were made from the following groups:

EMCS Mural Project

- John Lyall, representing Edward Milne Community School, addressed the Committee and reviewed the request for funding. Mr. Lyall provided a visual aid for the Committee to see the proposed mural and the fundraising progress to date.

EMCS Student Arts Bus Shelter Project

- Susan Percival and Sue Garat, representing the EMCS Student Art Bus Shelter Project, addressed the Committee and reviewed the request for funding. Ms. Percival and Ms. Garat gave an overview of the last year of the project and shared their goals for restoring and improving the Bus Shelter Project in 2014.

Navy League of Canada – Sooke Branch

- Merle Fulton and Julie Muttitt, representing the Navy League of Canada – Sooke Branch, addressed the Committee and reviewed the request for funding.
- The Navy League is proposing to renovate the upper hall of the Sooke Legion, which is the training facility for both the Navy League and the Sea Cadets. These two groups are the primary users of this space.

Metchosin Preschool Co-op Society

- Leah Taylor and Dolphin Loustalot, representing the Metchosin Preschool Co-op Society, addressed the Committee and reviewed the request for funding. The Preschool Society is looking to expand their outdoor programming and construct a covered shelter space.
- Of the 31 families currently enrolled in the Preschool, 10 are from Sooke.

Scouts Canada – Camp Barnard

- Ron Bilinsky, representing Scouts Canada – Camp Barnard, addressed the Committee and reviewed the request for funding.
- In 2015, 2500 youth and 600 adults are coming to Sooke for the “Pacific Jamboree”. In anticipation of this event, Scouts Canada is building an accessible washroom, along with other improvements to the camp.

Synergy Sustainability Institute

- Lee Johnson, representing Synergy Sustainability Institute, addressed the Committee and reviewed the request for funding.
- The Vancouver Island Green Business Certification program is aiming to help 100 small and medium sized businesses to help green their operations in 2014.

Public Input:

- There was no public input.

Committee Discussion:

- Category B grants are limited to \$7,000 as outlined in Policy 5.1, *Community Grant Program Policy, 2013*.
- Concerns as to the EMCS Mural project timeline, which is dependent on the success of the fundraising drive. Mr. Lyall advised that the project would be started if the District of Sooke grant application was successful.
- Concerns as to granting funds which would benefit the Royal Canadian Legion

Branch # 54, who already receive a Permissive Tax Exemption from the District of Sooke.

- Clarification on additional project funding opportunities sought by Metchosin Preschool Co-op Society.
- Discussion of potential for use of Camp Barnard as a Reception Centre/Emergency Shelter in case of Community Emergency.
- Discussion of the economic spinoff of Scout's Canada Pacific Jamboree being held in Sooke.
- Clarification on additional funding opportunities sought by Scouts Canada – Camp Barnard for capital improvements to the camp.
- Clarification of the services offered by the Synergy Sustainability Institute.
- Discussion of the District of Sooke leading by example and taking part in the Green Business Certification program offered by the Synergy Sustainability Institute.

ACTION ITEM: Staff to write a letter to the Edward Milne Community School *Society* regarding the 12% administration fee charged.

MOVED and seconded to recommend that Council fund the request from the Edward Milne Community School for the Mural Project in the amount of \$7,000.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED and seconded to recommend that Council fund the request from the Edward Milne Community School for the Student Art Bus Shelter Project in the amount of \$1,892.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED and seconded to recommend that Council fund the Navy League of Canada – Sooke Branch the amount of \$6,560; for the purpose of painting, lighting and improvements to the stage area of the Legion building at 6726 Eustace Rd, subject to staff confirming that there are no implications under the *Community Grant Program Policy, 2014* to providing additional benefits to an organization that receives a Permissive Property Tax Exemption.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED and seconded to refer discussion of funding for the Metchosin Preschool Co-op Society to Regular Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED and seconded to refer discussion of funding for Scouts Canada – Camp Barnard to Regular Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED and seconded to recommend that Council fund the request from the Synergy Sustainability Institute in the amount of \$1,500.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED and seconded to recommend that Council direct staff to engage the services of Synergy Sustainability Institute and participate in the Green Business Certification program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Next Scheduled Meeting:** TBD

6. **Adjournment:**

MOVED and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Kerrie Reay
Chair

Bonnie Sprinkling
Corporate Officer