

Sandi Horning

From: on behalf of Council Reports
Subject: FW: Report to Council, Heritage Granting process

From: Signe Bagh
Sent: November 18, 2009 8:17 AM
To: Ron Mattiussi
Cc: Stephen Fleming; Maria Stanborough; Jim Paterson
Subject: Kelowna Heritage Grants Program

Ron,

The following information is provided in response to the direction that Council gave at the February 16, 2009 P.M. Regular Meeting, at which time staff were directed to report back on the Kelowna Heritage Grants Program Committee report of that date. *If you are in agreement with this email, will you please forward it to Mayor and Council?*

Kelowna Heritage Grants Program (KHGP)

In February 2009 a representative from the Kelowna Heritage Grants Program (KHGP), managed by the Central Okanagan Heritage Foundation (COHS), presented Council with an update on the work of the Program. In the report, COHS suggested that annual grant funding amounts be increased (from the \$20,000 currently allocated) and also raised concerns that the costs of administering the program were likely exceeding what the city was paying them (\$8000). In response, Council asked staff to report back prior to 2010 budget discussions.

In fulfillment of Council's direction, staff have reviewed both the administration and funding allocations associated with the heritage grant program.

With respect to funding allocations, staff have recommended, through the budget process, that funding be gradually increased from the \$20,000 available today, to \$30,000 in 2010, \$40,000 in 2011 and \$50,000 in 2012. The City's Heritage Strategy recommended a \$50,000 annual allocation. A history of grant allocations is attached to this email.

With respect to administration costs, COHS still maintains that it is tough to administer the program as they would like to, for the \$8000 currently budgeted by the City. They have indicated that \$10,000 would be a more reasonable amount.

Given the above, and the obvious pressures on scarce budget resources, staff have explored other options for administering the grant program. One option would be to have the Central Okanagan Foundation (COF) assume the administration. The COF is prepared to undertake a scaled-down version (two grant intakes per year rather than four) for \$5000. Although the COF doesn't have the heritage expertise offered by the COHS, they do have extensive grant administration experience, including experience running at least two other city grant programs.

Regardless of how the City approaches the grant program in future years, staff would hope to continue working closely with COHS. City staff acknowledge the commitment and expertise of both COHS staff and volunteers and believe that partnerships can be mutually beneficial and can help achieve an inclusive, community-based approach to heritage.

Thanks.

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