

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JUNE 2, 2003

ONTARIO CONFEDERATION OF SICILY – REQUEST FOR SPACE

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services recommends:

That the following report be received for information.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the request by the Ontario Confederation of Sicily for City of Vaughan space for the purposes of a Cultural Centre.

Background - Analysis and Options

Representatives from the Ontario Confederation of Sicily appeared before Committee of the Whole on February 17, 2003 to request the use of Vellore School for a Cultural Centre and Library. The group also provide a written submission in which they outlined the Cultural Centre program to include cultural events, art exhibits, conferences, meetings and gatherings for Italian Canadians of Sicilian origin.

Staff has investigated the feasibility of providing Vellore School to the Sicilian Federation. Presently the school is being used by a number of community organizations as well the City of Vaughan for activities including: pre-school programs, art classes, family programs, ballroom dancing, religious services, staff training, and social events. In light of these activities, it was determined that the historic Vellore School was not an appropriate site to turn over to the Federation.

Staff have investigated other alternatives, in particular the proposed Seniors Housing and Wellness centre to be built in partnership with the Region of York in the Blue Willow area, or as part of the addition to the Chancellor Community Centre. Staff is waiting to hear back from the Sicilian Federation as to their precise space requirements prior to finalizing any proposal.

Once the requirements are known, and the implications of providing the space at either of the two locations are calculated, staff will provide a further report to Council for approval.

Conclusion

The Ontario Federation of Sicily is anxious to find a home in Vaughan for their proposed Cultural Centre/Library. Staff is continuing to work on this request, however have not as yet been able to finalize the location.

Attachments

None.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Doris Haas
Commissioner of Community Services

