

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 12, 2009

CULTURAL SPACES CANADA GRANT APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED PIERRE BERTON DISCOVERY CENTRE

Recommendation

Councillor Peter Meffe, in consultation with the Chair of the Preservation of the Berton Artifacts and Memorabilia Steering Committee, the Commissioner of Community Services and the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommends:

1. That a Cultural Spaces Canada grant be applied for the maximum allowable funding under the terms and conditions of the grant program for the Pierre Berton Discovery Centre project to meet the May 27, 2009 application review date.

Economic Impact

There are capital and operating costs associated with the Pierre Berton Discovery Centre project. Council approved 1.5 million dollars towards the capital construction costs for the Centre in 2006. There are no additional immediate financial implications associated with the submission of a grant application.

Communications Plan

No communication plan at this time with regard to the purpose of this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive Council approval to submit a grant application for the Pierre Berton Discovery Centre project under the Cultural Spaces Canada grant program in order to meet a May 27, 2009 application review date.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Pierre Berton Discovery Centre project was initiated in January 2006 when Council approved the appointment of the Steering Committee to examine the opportunities for preserving artifacts from the life of the late Mr. Pierre Berton at a location in Kleinburg. The Preservation of the Berton Artifacts and Memorabilia Steering Committee was given goals and objectives that include determining an appropriate location, facility, operational & governance model and funding sources of a future Centre.

In June 2006, Council approved securing 1.5 million dollars towards the capital construction of any future Centre. Additionally, in September 2006, Council allocated funds to undertake a study of the various sites and options for the proposed Centre. The study's scope included the development of a master plan, including options for site layout and design of the Centre.

The Steering Committee held a public information meeting on April 24, 2008 at the Kleinburg Public School that was attended by approximately 100 people. At the meeting a video presentation on the project and the proposal to develop a Pierre Berton Discovery Centre was presented that included the vision, programming and possible locations for the Centre.

As a result of this public meeting, the Steering Committee identified the need for more public consultation on the project and in November 2008 held a number of focus groups and information sessions with residents of the Treelawn area subdivision to listen to their concerns. In October 2008, Council also received a status report with regard to the project.

The final recommendations report on the Discovery Centre is being finalized at this time and is scheduled to be submitted for Council's review and consideration at its June 23, 2009 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The Chair of the Steering Committee would like to apply for a Cultural Spaces Canada grant to meet a May 27, 2009 application review date by the Department of Canadian Heritage. Under this grant program, new grant funding will support up to 50% of eligible construction and equipment costs (previously only 33%) for projects such as the proposed Pierre Berton Discovery Centre. Under the application requirements, Council approval of the grant application must be given in order to proceed.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
Preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, however, the necessary resources to undertake the entire scope of this initiative has not been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

None

Conclusion

In order to meet a May 27, 2009 Cultural Spaces Canada grant application review date by the Department of Canadian Heritage, Council is being requested to consider approving the submission of a grant application by the City of Vaughan. The approval is being requested for the grant submission only and a final review and consideration of the project will be submitted to Council at its June 23, 2009 meeting. New federal grant funding (60 million) has been provided to the program that will support up to now 50% of eligible construction and equipment costs (previously only 33%) for projects such as the proposed Pierre Berton Discovery Centre. Council's approval of the grant application must be given in order to proceed with a grant submission from the City.

Attachments

None.

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Respectfully submitted,

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