

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, MARCH 3, 2003

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VAUGHAN AND THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE MEMORY OF ITALIAN-CANADIAN IMMIGRANTS

Recommendation

Councillor Ferri recommends:

That Council enter into a formal agreement with the Association for the Memory of Italian-Canadian Immigrants (A.M.I.C.I.) for the purpose of developing an Italian Interpretive Centre in the Maple Community Centre;

That as per the request of A.M.I.C.I., the City of Vaughan assume the role of "lead organization" in the above-noted agreement for the purpose of application for funding to the Ontario Trillium Foundation Community Grant Program;

That the Legal Services Staff be directed to draft an agreement between A.M.I.C.I. and the City of Vaughan;

That Council appoint up to four (4) of its members to act as the City's representatives on the A.M.I.C.I. Board of Directors.

Purpose

To establish a formal agreement between the City of Vaughan and A.M.I.C.I. for the purposes of developing an Italian and Interpretive Centre in the Maple Community Centre and for application for funding to the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Community Grant Program.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its November 12, 2001 meeting, Council approved a recommendation that staff work with A.M.I.C.I. in the design phase of the Italian Interpretive Centre and to address issues such as identifying and securing capital and operating funding sources, collection development, and developing potential governance and management models.

Formed in 1999 for the purpose of developing an interpretive centre dedicated to preserving, celebrating, and conveying the experience and contribution of Italian-Canadians to Canada, A.M.I.C.I. acquired formal support for the concept of an Italian Interpretive Centre from all major Italian social clubs in the GTA. From May 2002 to date, A.M.I.C.I. has been incorporated as a non-profit organization, developed a mandate and vision statement, as well as completing a business plan for the initial start-up phase of the project. The committee is currently pursuing charitable organization status, developing a long-term business & financial plan, and formulating operational and governance policies for the Centre.

A.M.I.C.I. representatives made a deputation at the November 5, 2001 meeting of the Committee of the Whole requesting Council's support for this initiative and at this time Council directed Staff to work with A.M.I.C.I. to address the above-noted issues. On June 24, 2002 Council approved a part-time Cultural Interpretive Technician position to support the City's Cultural Services staff in the development of a City of Vaughan Cultural Interpretive Centre at Vellore, as well as assisting with the Italian Interpretive Centre initiative in Maple.

In order to acquire funding to equip and operate the Italian Interpretive Centre, A.M.I.C.I. decided to avail itself of the Ontario Trillium Foundation Community Grant Program. This Trillium grant program makes available one-time capital and equipment grants of up to \$75,000 and five year operating grants of up to \$75,000 per year for deserving community projects. A.M.I.C.I. is requesting that Council join it in a joint initiative and appoint up to four (4) of its members to act as the City's representatives on the A.M.I.C.I. Board of Directors in order to formalize the City's

support of and interests in the Interpretive Centre. Additionally, eligibility for Trillium funding is contingent upon a strong financial track record on the part of applicants. As a relatively new organization, A.M.I.C.I. lacks such a record and therefore must seek partnership with an agency possessing a financial history. Therefore, City's agreement with A.M.I.C.I. will also entail the City assuming the role of "lead organization" as per Ontario Trillium Community Grant financial requirements.

Conclusion

Entering into an agreement with A.M.I.C.I. will enable the City to formalize its past support of and existing interests in the development of an Italian Interpretive Centre in Vaughan. This agreement will facilitate funding opportunities for the Italian Interpretive Centre.

Attachments

None

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Mario Ferri, Ward 1