

DATE: August 30, 2023

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

SUBJECT: PG Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society (REAPS) – Funding Request

ATTACHMENT(S): REAPS Relocation-CPG Support Request Cost Breakdown 8-24-2023

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated August 30, 2023 from the Director of Civic Operations, titled “PG Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society (REAPS) - Funding Request”.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with further information on the financial request from Prince George Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society (REAPS).

BACKGROUND:

Prince George Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society (REAPS).

REAPS was established in 1989 and works with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George with the goal to reduce waste and deliver environmental education through a variety of initiatives and services. To support REAPS, the City of Prince George provided 1950 Gorse Street for REAPS to operate from.

May 31, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

On May 31, 2023, REAPS presented to Council as a delegation and provided an overview that detailed the relocation of their operation from the existing City Parks Yard on Gorse Street to their new location adjacent to the David Douglas Botanical Garden at UNBC. As part of the presentation, representatives from REAPS also requested financial support in the form of cash or in-kind services to assist in the development of REAPS’ relocated Community Compost Garden. The proposed sum of the financial request was \$100,000.

At the May 31, 2023 Council Meeting, Council approved the following resolution:

That Council REFERS to Administration for a report back to Council regarding the request for cash or in-kind financial support in the amount of \$100,000 from the Prince George Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society (REAPS) to support the development of the Growing Knowledge Community Compost Garden located adjacent to the expanded David Douglas Botanical Garden Society’s Botanical Garden at UNBC.

This report addresses the above referenced resolution.

DISCUSSION:

REAPS has provided a cost breakdown of the expenses that describe the works proposed to be involved in the \$100,000 financial request. The document attached to this report titled, "REAPS Relocation-CPG Support Request Cost Breakdown 8-24-2023" ("Cost Breakdown") details the proposed works and projected budget for 2023 and 2024.

The requested budget includes significant works including the installation of infrastructure such as water utilities and electrical utilities, surface works, foundation, patio, pathway works, garden features (i.e. furniture and pergola), and signage. These works would be installed on UNBC lands.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The City of Prince George has provided financial support to REAPS for many decades in the forms of grants, permissive tax exemptions, and non-profit lease rates. Administration has reviewed these noted forms of support and confirms that in the past decade REAPS has received approximately \$46,000 in grants, approximately \$19,000 in permissive tax exemptions, and a non-profit annual lease rate of \$1000 per year for lands that would otherwise be based on fair market value.

Recently, Civic Operations provided staff and equipment resources to assist REAPS in relocating items and materials from the previous REAPS location at Gorse Street to the new location at UNBC.

The works identified on the attached Cost Breakdown are not included in the City's current or future operational and capital work plans; therefore, it is Administration's preference that REAPS manage and coordinate the construction works themselves. Administration is seeking Council direction on the REAPS funding request.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Consideration of this request supports Council's strategic priority of focusing on meaningful communication and relationship development.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

This report provides Council with details regarding the REAPS \$100,000 financial request, of cash or in-kind services, that would facilitate the re-establishment of the REAPS Growing Knowledge Community Compost Garden located adjacent to the expanded David Douglas Botanical Garden Society's Botanical Garden at UNBC. Administration is seeking Council's direction on this financial request.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Blake McIntosh, Director Civic Operations

PREPARED BY: B. McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations and D. Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2023/09/11