

To: Mayor and Council
From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Meeting Date: December 17, 2024
Meeting Type: Regular Council Meeting

Prepared by: Matt Vader, Director Parks, Recreation and Culture
Department: Parks, Recreation and Culture

Title: Community Engagement Grant Request from Lake Country Garden Club & WALC
Description: A demonstration garden that will showcase sustainable gardening practices and improving a trail connection to improve safe connections between schools

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community Engagement Grant request in the amount of \$7,000 from the Lake Country Garden Club for a demonstration garden be approved.
AND THAT the Community Engagement Grant request in the amount of \$5,000 from Walk Around Lake Country for the Sherman Road trail enhancement be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Starting in 2021, Council has an annual budget of \$15,000 for the Community Engagement Grant. The grant has proved to be a great tool for engagement and inclusion of community groups and organizations to deliver projects in partnership with the District to enhance the community.

Lake Country Garden Club Demonstration Garden – where knowledge blooms and community grows.

The Lake Country Garden Club is committed to education and knowledge sharing through its Demonstration Garden. The Demonstration Garden is envisioned to be a vibrant living classroom designed to inspire and educate gardeners of all ages and skill levels. Nestled in the heart of our community, this garden will showcase sustainable gardening practices including organic growing methods, water conservation, and soil health. It will also highlight plants that are native to the local environment, pollinator friendly, water wise, and edible. As a community resource, the garden also adheres to fire smart principles.

Walk Around Lake Country (WALC)

A small community service organization that has been working collaboratively to develop and promote walking and hiking trails in and around the District since 1999. Through strategic planning exercises and collaboration with District Parks staff, the trail connection from Sherman Road to Bonnie Road has been identified as a key network connection that will support kids getting to and from the Copperhill and Clearwater neighborhoods in a safe manner.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

These applications embody the concept for this grant when it was originally presented to Council and then subsequently supported. This grant was an opportunity for the community to come together with ideas along with funds or resources or support for their idea. While these involve differing levels of support from the District, the concept is the same, creating a better community.

Under section 8 of the Community Charter, Fundamental Powers, a municipality has the right to provide assistance except that Council must not provide a grant, benefit, advantage, or other form of assistance to a

business including an exemption from a tax or fee (section 25). Business is defined as carrying on a commercial or industrial activity or undertaking of any kind and providing professional, personal, or other services for the purpose of gain or profit. Legislation does not define assistance to non-profit organizations although nearly all municipalities in BC set out policies restricting funding to only non-profit organizations registered under the BC Corporate Registry. A non-profit is considered an organization, not a business under the Community Charter therefore, there is no prohibition on a municipality from providing assistance to non-profits as legislation only applies to businesses.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None Budget Previously Approved Other (see below)

The 2024 Financial Plan identifies a budget of \$15,000 for the Community Engagement Grant. Approval of both requests will account for the remaining budgeted amount within the Community Engagement Grant allocation for 2024.

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION(S)

THAT the Community Engagement Grant requests from the Lake Country Garden Club or Walk Around Lake Country not be approved.

Respectfully Submitted.

Matt Vader, Director Parks, Recreation and Culture

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Community Engagement Grant - Garden Club and WALC.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Dec 11, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services - Dec 10, 2024 - 5:46 PM

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer - Dec 11, 2024 - 7:48 AM