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**TO:** Electoral Area Services Committee **MEETING:** April 14, 2020

**FROM:** Hannah King  
Superintendent Recreation Program Services

**SUBJECT:** Gabriola Island Historical and Museum Society Assistance Agreement with  
Renewal- 2020-2022

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Assistance Agreement (Attachment 1) with the Gabriola Island Historical and Museum Society be approved (2020-2022).

### SUMMARY

Since 2011 the Gabriola Island Historical and Museum Society (Society) has received financial support for operating costs of their museum by way of an Electoral Area B requisition in accordance to the "Electoral Area B Cultural Centre Contribution Bylaw No. 1319". An updated agreement with the Society is required to carry out the Board's January 2020 direction on providing continued funding to the organization.

### BACKGROUND

In late 2018 the Society requested an increase (\$4,000) in funding from the Regional District of Nanaimo. At the January 22, 2019 Regular Board Meeting the Board passed the following motion;

19-039

*"That the 2019 proposed budget, as presented on December 4, 2018 be amended so that the Regional District of Nanaimo funding for the Gabriola Museum be increased to \$16,000 and further that the Regional District of Nanaimo and the Gabriola Island Historical and Museum Society agreement be updated to reflect the funding increase."*

Within a letter dated November 8, 2019 the Society requested that the Board consider an additional \$8,000 in funding to commence in 2020 on an annual basis. This increase was not supported by the Board, and as such, was not included within the 2020-2024 Financial Plan, which was approved on February 25, 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Society did cancel one March 26<sup>th</sup> event and is working on offering activities and presentations in alternative formats. The annual opening of the museum typically occurs the May long weekend.

The Electoral Area B Cultural Centre Contribution Bylaw No. 1319 was established in 2002 by way of referendum to provide EA B funding to the City of Nanaimo's Port Theatre. In June of

2011 under the authority of the same Bylaw the first financial assistance agreement with the Society was made as the museum was deemed a permitted use under the Bylaw. Since the 2011 original agreement continued funding to the Society has occurred through one renewed agreement (2014 - 2016) and one extension of the agreement (2016 - 2019).

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. That the Assistance Agreement with the Gabriola Island Historical and Museum Society be approved (2020-2022).
2. That the renewal of the Agreement with the Gabriola Historical and Museum Society not be approved, and alternative direction is provided.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Agreement with the Gabriola Island Historical and Museum Society is financed under the authority of the "Electoral Area B Cultural Centre Contribution Bylaw No. 1319". Funding established under this Bylaw is for the purposes of contributing to the costs of providing and operating a cultural centre for pleasure, recreation and other community use for the residents of EA B. Electoral Area B is the only participant in this service, which is entirely funded by tax requisition. The Bylaw defines cultural centre as a theatre, art gallery, museum or other facility for performances and exhibitions.

The 2020 budget and five-year financial plan include annual payments of \$16,000 to the Society.

Should the Board not approve the three-year term of the Agreement further direction in relation to motion 19-039 would need to be provided. The annual amount of \$16,000 identified in the 2020 budget and Five-Year Financial Plan would not be expended and could be used for other purposes as authorized in the Bylaw (providing and operating a cultural centre for pleasure, recreation and other community use).

## **STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

People and Partnerships - Seek opportunities to partner with the provincial and federal governments, other government agencies, and community stakeholder groups in order to advance strategic plan goals and objectives.



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April 7, 2020

Reviewed by:

- D. Banman, Manager, Recreation Services
- J. Bradburne, Director of Finance
- T. Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks

- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

1. Gabriola Historical & Museum Society Agreement 2020-2022