

TO: Committee of the Whole

MEETING: November 20, 2018

FROM: Hannah King
Superintendent, Recreation Program Services

SUBJECT: Gabriola Recreation Society Increase Funding Request

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Regional District supplement annual grant funding received by Gabriola Recreation Society from the Canada Summer Jobs program for their Summer Student Coordinator position to a maximum combined total of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) for the 2019 and 2020 fiscal years.

SUMMARY

The Gabriola Recreation Society (GRS) has requested an increase of \$8,000 (Attachment 1) in the annual payment for recreation program services the Society (GRS) provides under contract with the RDN. Annually the Society applies for summer employment funding through the Canada Summer Jobs program (CSJ) for wage support for their summer student position(s). The CSJ program provides wage subsidies to employers to create employment for secondary and post-secondary students.

The Society has reported that in recent years the amount of CSJ funding has fluctuated and decreased. GRS also reports that the demand for summer programming on Gabriola Island continues regardless of the decreasing CSJ funding. In order to meet this demand with reduced CSJ grant funding GRS reallocates funds from within their operational budget. This places a strain on other services provided by the Society. With the uncertainty and reduction of CSJ funding the Society is no longer able to offer a competitive rate for their Summer Student Coordinator position.

BACKGROUND

The Society oversees the planning and implementation of direct community recreation programming for residents of Gabriola Island. The Regional District and the Gabriola Recreation Society have been working in partnership in the provision of recreation services since 2002. The current Recreation Services Agreement (Attachment 2) between the RDN and the Gabriola Recreation Society is set to expire December 31, 2020.

Due to the contractual relationship between Gabriola Recreation Society and the Regional District, the Society is considered a public sector employer per the criteria of the CSJ program. Within the terms of the CSJ program private and public sector employers are only eligible to receive funding for up to 50% of the provincial minimum hourly wage. As a result the Society will not be able to fully fund the Summer Student Coordinator position without the recommended supplementation of the grant funding and/or additional funding source(s).

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Regional District supplement annual grant funding received by Gabriola Recreation Society from the Canada Summer Jobs program for the Summer Student Coordinator position to a maximum combined total of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) for both the 2019 and 2020 fiscal years.
2. That the eight thousand dollar (\$8,000) increase in annual funding requested by Gabriola Recreation Society for the delivery of recreation services as outlined in the Recreation Services Agreement be approved beginning January 1, 2019 contingent on the Society making an annual application for CSJ grant funding.
3. That the eight thousand dollar (\$8,000) increase in annual funding requested by the Gabriola Recreation Society be declined and addressed during contract renegotiation in 2020 for the 2021-2023 term.
4. That alternative direction be given.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The requested increase would be used for the payment of wages for the Summer Student Coordinator position for the months of May through August at a rate of \$20/hour. This wage rate is reasonable based on comparison to the wage paid by the RDN Northern Recreation Services for the Summer Leader 2 (\$19.90) and Summer Program Assistant (\$28.22) positions. It is understood that the GRS Summer Student Coordinator position involves a blend of these two positions.

The following figures are the annual contract payment amounts made to Gabriola Recreation Society by the RDN over the past five years (not including adjustments for inflation).

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$66,465	\$72,000	\$72,714	\$72,714	\$77,161

The existing recreation services contract annual payment to GRS is \$77,161 for 2018-2020. If approved by the Board the maximum matching wage funding payment would increase the annual contract services payment to \$85,161 in 2019 and the same amount in 2020. This payment increase would be paid by Gabriola Island residents directly through the same tax requisition used to fund the existing agreement. Alternative two would provide \$8,000 directly to GRS with no condition of matching funds from CSJ.

The Board may elect to not amend the annual contract payment or provide any financial support at this time and defer the request for discussions during the renegotiation of the next agreement.

Although not approved by the Board at this time, the \$8,000 funding request has been included in the 2019 Preliminary Budget for the Gabriola Recreation Services function. The application deadline for the CSJ grant program is typically the first Friday of February with notification from CSJ of grant funding as late as June. It is expected that the Society would like confirmation of RDN financial support prior to submitting their CSJ application.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Focus On Relationships- We Look For Opportunities To Partner With Other Branches Of Government/Community Groups To Advance Our Region

The Service Agreement with Gabriola Recreation Society demonstrates the District's commitment to working with the community based nonprofit society in the provision of direct recreation services in an efficient and impactful way.



Hannah King
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November 14, 2018

Reviewed by:

- D. Banman, Manager, Recreation Services
- T. Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

1. Budget Request Letter RDN October 2018
2. Recreation Services Agreement 2018-2020