

DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 21, 2019

AUTHORED BY LAURA MERCER, ACTING DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT NANAIMO PRIDE SOCIETY MULTI - YEAR FUNDING REQUEST

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide Council with options for funding the requests for the Nanaimo Pride Society.

### **Recommendation**

That Council provide direction on which funding option they choose to fund the requests made by the Nanaimo Pride Society.

## **BACKGROUND**

The mission of the Nanaimo Pride Society (NPS) is “to empower, celebrate, and promote inclusivity, acceptance, and respect among persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities through advocacy, educational and cultural events, and activities in Nanaimo and surrounding communities; and to provide similar and related services and support as determined by the membership and/or Board of Directors in accordance with the bylaws.”

Although the Society has been around since 1997, the Nanaimo Pride Society has only organized Nanaimo Pride week festivities within the City since 2016. These events include youth and adult dances as well as a parade. They have applied for funding under the Downtown Event Grant program in the past and have been successful with both of their applications.

The Nanaimo Pride Society applied for a \$7,500 Downtown Event and Revitalization Grant for the 2019 year. However they missed the submission date for the grant intake and will not receive this grant for the 2019 Pride week festivities.

The history of grants given to the Nanaimo Pride Society:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>2017</b>	\$4,330	2017 Downtown Event Grant - Pride Week
<b>2018</b>	\$4,400	2018 Downtown Event Grant - Pride Week

In 2016 and 2017, the Nanaimo Pride Society approached the City and asked to have crosswalks along the Pride Parade route painted with rainbow patterns. In support of the Society, Council directed staff to paint two crosswalks at the intersection of Bastion Street and Commercial Street in 2016, and then all four crosswalks in 2017. This work cost approximately \$5,000 and \$10,000 respectively.

In 2018, the Nanaimo Pride Society approached the City again and asked to have the crosswalks repainted. During this conversation, the City advised the Pride Society that there is a plan to rebuild the traffic signal and crosswalks at the intersection of Bastion and Commercial in 2022. As part of this work, the City would like to relocate the rainbow crosswalk from Bastion and Commercial to Museum Way at Commercial. It is felt that this location would be more prominent and if installed using the appropriate products, would require much less maintenance. Until the crosswalk can be relocated, the City committed to maintaining the existing crosswalks. This includes a plan to repaint in 2019, pressure wash in 2020, and then assess the condition in 2021 to determine what work is appropriate. The Pride Society was supportive of this plan.

In 2017 and 2018, the City supported the Pride Parade by providing barricades, signage, and staff time to install and remove the traffic control devices. The cost for this was approximately \$7,500 for each event. For these events, the Pride Society provided volunteers to be stationed at the barricades to ensure that they are not moved during the event. This is typical of all parades that the City supports.

### **MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT REQUEST**

At the 2018-DEC-12 Special Council Meeting, the Nanaimo Pride Society came before Council asking for a multi-year agreement with the City of Nanaimo. The Director, Mike Scott, and Secretary, Rick Dagg, appeared before Council to speak in support of the request. Council requested a Staff report on the issue.

The multi-year agreement request is for the following:

1. The City of Nanaimo take ownership again, of maintaining and repainting as needed the Pride Crosswalks on Commercial & Bastion.
2. The City of Nanaimo take ownership again, of supplying, installing & removing all required barricades and signage along the Pride Parade route.
3. The City of Nanaimo grant permission for a standing reservation of Maffeo Sutton Park for the second Sunday of June to assist in planning the Pride Festival going forward.
4. The cost to stage the Pride Week has averaged about \$20,000, with costs rising each year. NPS has fundraisers and reaches out to businesses and groups in the community for support and grants to help cover the cost. To help ensure the long-term viability of Nanaimo Pride Week and allow the NPS Board to focus on some of the other urgent needs in our communities we are asking for an annual grant of \$10,000 to help ensure the future and growth of Nanaimo Pride Week. Council's support would be a strong positive statement about Council and the City of Nanaimo about inclusion of all.
5. Currently there is no place for our community to meet and support each other. NPS would appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Nanaimo on the establishment of an adequate building space, centrally located, that could be used as a permanent central resource and social space for the LGBTQ+ community.

## **DISCUSSION**

1. *The City of Nanaimo take ownership again, of maintaining and repainting as needed the Pride Crosswalks on Commercial & Bastion.*

As noted above, the City will maintain the existing crosswalks until the intersection rebuild. As part of the rebuild the rainbow crosswalk will be relocated to Museum Way. This location has much lower volumes and the crosswalk will be installed with thermoplastic instead of paint which will significantly reduce maintenance costs.

2. *The City of Nanaimo take ownership again, of supplying, installing & removing all required barricades and signage along the Pride Parade route.*

The City has covered the costs of supplying, installing and removing all required signage and barricades in previous years and will continue to do so in the future as this is typical for all parades that the City supports. Staff is currently working on a policy document for providing support for special events and parades. This may include a recommendation to identify a specific line item in the budget for parades.

3. *The City of Nanaimo grant permission for a standing reservation of Maffeo Sutton Park for the second Sunday of June to assist in planning the Pride Festival going forward.*

The Nanaimo Pride Society can discuss their needs with the Director, Parks and Recreation to determine what possible options are.

4. *The cost to stage the Pride Week has averaged about \$20,000, with costs rising each year. NPS has fundraisers and reaches out to businesses and groups in the community for support and grants to help cover the cost. To help ensure the long-term viability of Nanaimo Pride Week and allow the NPS Board to focus on some of the other urgent needs in our communities we are asking for an annual grant of \$10,000 to help ensure the future and growth of Nanaimo Pride Week. Council's support would be a strong positive statement about Council and the City of Nanaimo about inclusion of all.*

Currently there is no annual funding amount for the Nanaimo Pride Society in the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan. If Council wished to add an annual grant for the Nanaimo Pride Society, options for funding the \$10,000 request are:

- I. Fund the 2019 annual grant from Council Contingency. For 2020 and subsequent years, allocate \$10,000 of the Downtown Event Grant funds to the Nanaimo Pride Society. This will result in no tax increase in future years however there will be less funds to distribute to other organizations.

Staff recommend that Council put a term limit (ie: 3 years, 5 years, etc) on the grant request. After the term ends, the Society will need to reapply for funding.

- II. Add the annual grant to the 2019 – 2023 and fund from general taxation. This will result in an approximate property tax increase of 0.01%.

Staff recommend that Council put a term limit (ie: 3 years, 5 years, etc) on the grant request. After the term ends, the Society will need to reapply for funding.

5. *Currently there is no place for our community to meet and support each other. NPS would appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Nanaimo on the establishment of an adequate building space, centrally located, that could be used as a permanent central resource and social space for the LGBTQ+ community.*

Non-profit organizations in the City typically provide their own permanent space by either leasing or purchasing. Meeting a request to provide space for one non-profit would be creating a precedent for future requests from other non-profits. Furthermore, the City does not currently have any vacant space available to meet this request. Council could direct staff to help NPS connect with other non-profit groups who may be willing to sub-lease/ share the costs of renting and operating their space with NPS.

Council may wish to consider developing a policy that provides direction and expectations for responding to requests from non-profit organizations for financial support outside of the current grant programs. This will ensure requests are evaluated in a fair and equitable manner and provide clear guidelines to both non-profit organizations and staff. As part of the policy development funding sources for requests should be considered.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Council direct Staff to endorse the full grant request from the Nanaimo Pride Society.
  - **Budget Implication:** The 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan would need to be amended to include \$10,000 annual funding.
    - i. If Council contingency was used for 2019 and the existing Downtown Events Grant funds for 2020 and subsequent years are used as funding sources there would be no tax increase.
    - ii. If general taxation was used to fund the grant an approximate 0.01% tax increase would be incurred in 2019.
  - **Policy Implication:** Goal 3 of the Official Community Plan encourages social enrichment.
  - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Cultural vitality is an identified community value in the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan.
  - **Political Implication:** Giving an ongoing annual grant to a single organization can create inequity; Council could be inviting every non-profit organization to come before them requesting annual operational grants.
2. Council direct staff to endorse a portion of the grant request from the Nanaimo Pride Society.
  - **Budget Implication:** The 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan would need to be amended to include \$10,000 annual funding if Council choose to fund the annual grant request.
    - i. If Council contingency was used for 2019 and the existing Downtown Events Grant funds for 2020 and subsequent years are used as funding sources there would be no tax increase.
    - ii. If general taxation was used to fund the grant an approximate 0.01% tax increase would be incurred in 2019.
  - **Policy Implication:** Goal 3 of the Official Community Plan encourages social enrichment.

- **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Cultural vitality is an identified community value in the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan.
  - **Political Implication:** Giving an ongoing annual grant to a single organization can create inequity; Council could be inviting every non-profit organization to come before them requesting annual operational grants
3. Council deny the grant request.
- **Budget Implication:** No impact on the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan

#### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The Nanaimo Pride Society has received a Downtown Event Grant in 2017 and 2018.
- The Society missed the application deadline for the 2019 intake for the Downtown Event Grant and therefore will not receive a grant in 2019.
- The City currently maintain the rainbow sidewalks in the downtown area.
- City Staff is currently working on a policy document for providing support for special events and parades.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment A: Nanaimo Pride Society – December 12, 2018 Presentation to City of Nanaimo Finance & Audit Committee.

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