

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ADDENDUM

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

7:10 P.M.

RDN Board Chambers

This meeting will be recorded

Pages

5. CORRESPONDENCE

*5.1 Ted Girard, re Request for Letter of Support: Cedar Hall Accessibility Grant, Stage I

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From: Ted Girard
Sent: Saturday, June 10, 2017 12:01 PM
To: Alec McPherson; Idema, Wendy
Subject: Letter of Support: Cedar Hall Accessibility Grant, Stage I

Regional District of Nanaimo Board
Attn: Alec McPherson, Director Electoral Area A

Dear Alec,

I'm writing to you in your role as director of Area A of the RDN. The Cedar Community Association is undertaking a large accessibility project. We're applying for a federal New Horizons grant for Stage I of the project: paving of half the hall parking lot (the part closest to the hall).

We're hoping the RDN Board will provide a motion and a short letter of support for our grant application.

Benefits for Area A residents:

As you know, the Cedar-Yellowpoint area uses the Cedar Community Hall for such events as large community meetings, fundraising events, memorial services, weddings, elections, drama productions, musical productions, dog obedience classes, and art classes at the hall. The hall is over 90 years old but continues to play a significant role as a meeting place in the community. It is also a **designated emergency reception centre** for the Regional District of Nanaimo.

Need for the Project in the Community:

The hall committee has worked hard to improve the building over the years (new roof, new wood floor in the main hall, new heating system, updated washrooms, addition of a handicapped washroom). However, accessibility has remained a problem. **The Cedar Hall Accessibility Project** will address many issues such as a proper wheelchair ramp, a safer front entrance, handicapped parking, and wheelchair-friendly exterior doors.

However, **stage I** is the paving of the parking lot, starting with the half closest to the hall. The photos below show the parking lot as it was for much of this year. A cold, snowy winter made its usual poor state even worse. Snow removal was very difficult on the gravel surface. For the senior citizens who make up the majority of hall users, the lot was treacherous. For those in wheelchairs, it would be almost impossible to cross.

The New Horizons Grant:

We are applying for a federal **New Horizons grant, directed at programs and facilities that offer social and volunteer opportunities for seniors**—something the hall does through the many activities that happen there.

The grant application asks that you include the following in your letter of support:

- **name and description of the organization sending the letter**
- **name, position title, signature of letter writer**
- **date**
- **where possible, organization's letterhead**

In the letter itself, the application asks for the following:

- **show that you understand and endorse the activities at the Cedar Hall**
- **show that you understand and endorse the proposed project to pave the hall parking lot**
- **explain the need for the project (paving as a first step in accessibility) in our community (1 or 2 sentences)**
- **benefits for the community**



**Excerpt - Grant Application to Employment and Social Development Canada
Cedar Community Association**

Project Description and Project Activities p. 4-5

The board of directors for the Cedar Community Association is undertaking this project. All seven members of the board are active seniors who are prepared to volunteer their time generously and share their skills on this project, as they have on several major building renovations undertaken during their terms.

Pre-Project a) Local paving contractors are booked six months in advance. At the regular July 2017 meeting of the hall board, the directors will review the estimates, choose a contractor, and ask to be put on the contractor's schedule for early March of 2018. (all directors)

b) Beginning in July, 2017, when a rental booking is made for the hall, a record will be kept of the number of users (and, if possible, the number of seniors) anticipated to attend the event. This record will help us chart the impact of paving the parking lot.

[REDACTED]

c) From June 2017 to April 2018, as need arises, the main users of the hall will be consulted for their input about details of the project.

[REDACTED] Lions Club members, Yellowpoint Drama Group members)

d) A group of directors (who meet and do repairs and renovations every Wednesday throughout the year) will undertake preparation work, such as changes in the current drainage system and moving existing parking curbs.

[REDACTED] They will hire a backhoe operator as necessary.

Month #1 a) Once funding is secured, the whole board will review the budget and decide how much of the parking lot can be paved. The hope is to pave the half of the lot closest to the hall, but if we do not reach our funding goal, we will have to pave a smaller portion, starting at the front entrance.

b) The project will be announced with a written press release.

[REDACTED]

Month #2 a) The main users of the hall will be contacted for their input on details of the paving.

[REDACTED]

b) A small group will consult with the contractor about details of the project (extent of paving, drainage, transitions from paving to existing sidewalks and structures).

[REDACTED] one or two others as needed)

Month #3 a) Contractor will complete grading and paving. [REDACTED] will monitor the work.

Month #4 a) Lines will be painted for the two parking spots with disability space

Note: Personal Information is redacted in accordance with FOIPPA section 22

designation, and signs will be posted. Both will be in accordance with guidelines in The BC Building Access Handbook 2014 and Bylaw No. 500, Schedule 3B, Table 3 of the Regional District: Disability Space Designation. [REDACTED]

All Months: Activities will be monitored throughout to ensure the project meets the budget. New and changed expenses must be approved at a regular or special meeting of the board. [REDACTED]

Number of seniors contributing to project: 9

Number of non-seniors contributin to project: 0

Note: Personal Information is redacted in accordance with FOIPPA section 22

Introduction

The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) helps to ensure that seniors can benefit from, and contribute to, the quality of life in their communities through active living and participation in social activities.

NHSP's community-based projects support local initiatives across Canada. They are inspired or led by seniors, volunteer-based and supported by their communities. NHSP reinforces that seniors are valuable assets to communities. By empowering seniors and encouraging them to share their knowledge, skills and experience with others, NHSP enhances seniors' social well-being and community vitality.

The Program provides funding for projects that encourage seniors to play an important role in their communities by volunteering, participating in and leading community activities. The program also provides funds to help organizations make necessary modifications or repairs to their existing facilities, or to purchase/replace equipment and furnishings to enable programs and activities for seniors.

The program objectives are the following:

1. promoting volunteerism among seniors and other generations;
2. engaging seniors in the community through mentoring of others;
3. expanding awareness of elder abuse, including financial abuse;
4. supporting social participation and inclusion of seniors;
5. providing capital assistance for new and existing community projects and/or programs for seniors.