

DISTRICT OF SAANICH
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
FINANCIAL PLAN
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 AT 7:30 P.M.

Present: **Chair:** Councillor Wergeland
 Council: Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Derman, Gerrard, Murdock and Wade
 Staff: P. Murray, Administrator; V. Tinney, Director of Finance; P. Arslan, Senior Manager, Financial Services; and A. Park, Senior Committee Clerk.

PUBLIC INPUT

Nil

5660-25
Greater Victoria
Public Library Board

GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD – 2013 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Letter from the Chair, Greater Victoria Public Library Board, dated February 28, 2013 submitting their 2013 budget request in the amount of \$4,938,870.

Mr. G. Bunyan, Chair, Greater Victoria Public Library Board, stated:

- The provincial funding cuts in 2009 continue to affect the library system and he credits the efforts of their excellent staff for effectively maintaining and improving services; the GVPL has one of the highest per-capita circulation rates in the country, with public library usage higher than ever.
- The Saanich funding request for 2013 in the amount of \$4,938,870 represents a 3.28% increase over 2012.
- The GVPL Development Committee continues to look for additional sources of revenue, including direct donations from library supporters.

Ms. M. Sawa, CEO, Greater Victoria Public Library, stated:

- The GVPL is a shared system between 10 municipalities and 5 First Nations bands; this enables equitable access to resources normally only available in a large municipality.
- Free access to services continues to be critical.
- The Library is in the second year of their Strategic Plan, with significant technological efficiencies achieved; this has assisted with maintaining services.
- Upgrades to the Bruce Hutchison branch commenced last year; an upgrade to the teen space in the Nelly McClung branch was possible with funding from the Victoria Foundation.
- The final overall GVPL budget was limited to a 2.5% increase, with current operating hours maintained.
- The GVPL, Library Directors and the BC Public Library Association are continuing to work with the Provincial government to ensure no further funding is lost.

Members of Council congratulated the GVPL staff and its Board for their creative management which has allowed the library system to increase its business and provide significant value for money.

5660-25
Horticulture Centre
of the Pacific

HORTICULTURE CENTRE OF THE PACIFIC – 2013 GRANT REQUEST PRESENTATION

Letter from the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific dated February 17, 2013 requesting a 2013 grant in the amount of \$130,000.

Mr. Roger Charles, Executive Director, Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP), stated:

- The Saanich Grant in the amount of \$130,000 is key to the future operations and levels of service at HCP.
- HCP's core focus is education and the college at HCP is the second largest accredited horticulture college in BC and the only one operating online courses; it will soon be offering an arborists program and attracts international students.
- Based on their experience teaching members of the Quatsino First Nations about food sustainability and growing their own food, they will offer this program to First Nations across the province.
- HCP is the home of the BC Garden Tourism Coalition which is leading an initiative to create a Garden Celebration across the country for the 150th anniversary of Canada.
- Under a separate agreement with the municipality, HCP is responsible for the restoration and maintenance of Outerbridge Park, which has been described as a hidden jewel.
- The new Couvelier Pavilion is under construction and scheduled for completion in September 2013 with a gala opening planned; it is anticipated this facility will contribute substantially to the bottom line.
- As the Horticultural College continues to grow, the Board will consider moving forward with plans for a new education facility on the site.

5660-25
Swan Lake
Christmas Hill Nature
Sanctuary

SWAN LAKE CHRISTMAS HILL NATURE SANCTUARY – 2013 MANAGEMENT FEE

Letter from the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society dated February 25, 2013 requesting a 2013 management fee in the amount of \$320,000.

Ms. Jodi Watson, Board Chair, attended with Mr. B. Janyk, Executive Director, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, who made a presentation highlighting the following:

- The Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society acts as the steward of the lands and waters and a provider of education and learning.
- In 2012, the Sanctuary brought about the return of the painted turtle by controlling the bullfrog population.
- An immediate goal is to rebuild the organization and strengthen its foundation; a fundraiser will be hired.
- The Martelli House donated to the Sanctuary by Saanich, is being renovated and will be used for office space.
- Other initiatives include a lake quality assessment, a new preschool visit program in partnership with Saanich Recreation, and the planned replacement of the boardwalk.
- The management fee requested for 2013 in the amount of \$320,000

represents a 3.22% increase over 2012.

5660-25
Saanich Heritage
Foundation

**SAANICH HERITAGE FOUNDATION – 2013 GRANT REQUEST
PRESENTATION**

Letter from the Saanich Heritage Foundation dated February 14, 2013 requesting a 2013 grant in the amount of \$25,000.

Councillor Derman declared, pursuant to Section 85 of the Council Procedure Bylaw, that he is not entitled to participate in the discussion of the funding request from the Saanich Heritage Foundation as he is the Council representative on the Foundation. He left the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Mr. Brad Shuya, President, Saanich Heritage Foundation, stated:

- Saanich Heritage Foundation (SHF) activities are stable but less restoration work is happening now due to the economy.
- The funding request in the amount of \$25,000 is \$5,000 less than requested in 2012, based on the number of grant applications expected.
- The Foundation encourages owners of registered heritage properties to consider designation but owners, real estate agents and insurers are apprehensive, expecting that designation will limit the options for the property; this will require renewed communication of the value of heritage designation.
- A new poster showcasing 1913 heritage homes in Saanich has been created and will be mailed with designation and grant information to all home owners of properties on the Register.
- Funds will be set aside for the continuing education of members and will allow for participation in heritage conferences throughout BC.
- The Martelli house donated to the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary may be a candidate for heritage designation, which would allow for assistance from the SHF in its preservation.

Adjournment

On a motion from Councillor Brice, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK