



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Community Services Committee

DATE: December 2, 1999

FROM: Dave Semple
Director, Parks

FILE: 0100-01

RE: Nations in Bloom '99/Communities in Bloom 2000

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council approve sending two representatives (the Mayor or the Chair of the Community Services Committee along with one staff representative) to the Nations in Bloom '99 final competition with the necessary funding to come from the City Centre Beautification account number 45818; and
2. That staff be directed to decline, on behalf of the City, the invitation to participate in the year 2000 Communities in Bloom competition.

Dave Semple
Director, Parks

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Beautification Team, Chair	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
Finance	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

In January of this year, Council directed staff to enter the City in the Nations in Bloom '99 competition. In September, staff submitted an application package and, as a result, the City was invited to participate in the final round of the competition. The purpose of this report is to outline the process and requirements for the final steps of the competition. As well, staff has recently received an invitation to enter the year 2000 Communities in Bloom competition. This report also addresses options related to this latter competition.

ANALYSIS

Nations in Bloom '99 (International Competition)

The final presentation will take place in Hamamatsu, Japan during the period of February 10, 2000 to February 14, 2000. While one presenter will suffice, a maximum of two presenters are allowed. (This does not, however, limit the number of supporters who may accompany the presenter(s), and the Nations organisers are extending an invitation to Civic Leaders, elected representatives and other dignitaries should they wish to attend the competition.) Taking into account travel time, the presenter(s)/representatives will be required to be away from Richmond for approximately 7 days.

The requirements of the presentation include: a verbal presentation of no longer than 35 minutes supplemented by a maximum of 20 slides and a video of no longer than 20 minutes. Additional computer aids (e.g. PowerPoint charts/graphs) may be used if desired. The presentation (which will be followed by a 20-minute question period conducted by the panel of international judges) is expected to reflect Richmond's achievements in the following five criteria areas: Enhancement of the Landscape; Heritage Management; Environmentally Sensitive Practices; Community Involvement; and Planning for the Future.

The estimated cost of sending two representatives is \$6,300. This cost takes into account the use of a \$1,200 travel grant offered by the Nations organisers. Sponsorship funding to cover a portion of the travel expenses is also a strong likelihood. Sponsorship opportunities also exist for funding of the production of the presentation video. Staff believes that the most appropriate combination of representatives would be the Mayor or the Chair of the Community Services Committee along with one staff member.

Year 2000 Communities in Bloom Competition (Canadian Competition)

The City has once again been invited to participate in one of several categories in this national "Bloom" Competition which is schedule to take place in the fall of 2000. A \$950 registration fee would be required, as would costs for hosting the judges. If the City does not enter into the Communities in Bloom competition in 2000, it would still have the option of being involved in the program in subsequent years. Staff does not recommend entering this competition in the year 2000, particularly in light of the City's focus on the Nations competition, the winners of which will be announced in February 2000.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of the next steps for participation in the final round of the Nations competition is approximately \$6,300. Staff is recommending that the necessary funds be provided from the City Centre Beautification account number 45818. Staff is not recommending the expenditure of \$950 for participation in the year 2000 Communities in Bloom competition.

CONCLUSION

As representation is required at the Nations in Bloom competition should Committee choose to continue in the final round, staff believe that the above combination of representation would be the most appropriate. Further, staff do not believe that entering into the year 2000 Communities in Bloom would be to the City's advantage as it is already focussing on the Nations competition in that year.

Pascale Best
Research Officer, Parks

PB:pb