



To: Richmond City Council
From: Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie
Chair, General Purposes Committee
Re: 2002 Casino Funds

Date: September 4th, 2002
File: 1085-01

The General Purposes Committee, at its meeting held on September 3rd, 2002, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

Committee Recommendation

NONE (defeated on a tied vote)

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie, Chair
General Purposes Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that staff recommended the following:

That the remaining \$79,000 (one time only) of Casino funds be allocated to the 2003 Grants Program, for distribution in 2003.

Staff Report

Origin

At the July 15th General Purposes Committee staff were asked to report back on recommendations for the expenditure of the remaining \$79,000 in Casino Funds.

Findings Of Fact

In 2001 and 2002 the City provided funding to various Richmond groups from the Casino Funds. The Casino Funding Procedures state that all groups could apply "on the basis that they fill a void within the community and

- Offer a new project, program or event directed to a preventative, alternative and /or educational program relating to addictive behaviour
- Offer a new program or event which involves Youth or Seniors or
- Offer a new program or event relating to policing in the community"

Council, in turn, could expense funds at their discretion.

In 2001, the City received 25 applications for Casino funds amounting to over a million dollars. The cost to place ads was approximately \$600. The actual amount disbursed in 2001 was \$322,100 for Community Groups and \$559,500 for City Initiatives.

In 2002 there was \$200,000 in Casino funds for Community Groups. To date \$121,000 has been expensed to

1. Disability Resource Centre; - \$53,000
2. Equestrian Riding -\$18,000
3. Minoru Senior Centre - \$30,000
4. Sea Island Community Association - \$10,000
5. Hamilton Community Associations. - \$10,000

The procedure for the expense of the above funds went through staff and on to Council. These five groups wrote a letter requesting additional funds for their existing programs. This was done within the Casino Guidelines under Council discretion.

Presently there are 5 requests (written and verbal) on the table amounting to \$116,600. The Table below gives the group along with the program.

Term	Program	Amount	Casino Criteria
Time-limited project	Poverty Response Initiative – continued work with community task forces to further refine recommendations presented to Planning Cte. in January 2002. Develop an action plan for poverty in Richmond. A United Way grant of \$15,000 has been received to partially fund this process.	\$10,000	Does not meet the criteria. On going study, with \$10,000 received from 2001
RCSAC	Child, Youth and Family Committees Website – A forum held last year demonstrated that there are over 60 committees in Richmond addressing child, youth and family issues. A website, regularly updated, would contribute to an understanding of the roles and functions of these committees.	\$1,600	Seems to fall within the criteria. \$600 annually to maintain program in addition to the \$1600.
Caring for Kids	A program linking mentors with children, using volunteers, established by the Rotary Club. Touchstone Family Association would partner by providing some administrative support. A coordinator's salary is required.	\$55,000	Does not meet the criteria. On going program. Moving from volunteers to paid co-ordinator.
East Richmond Community Association	Healthy Community Project. To promote neighbourhood leadership and the provision of community services. Hire a Co-ordinator	\$50,000	Meets casino criteria. New Program which will provide varied and diverse programs for all ages to the East Richmond Comm.
Richmond Connections	To support Volunteer appreciation Night	No specific amount	On going program. Does not fit the 'New' criteria

There are a few options Council may wish to consider:

1. Allocate the funds to the 2003 Grant program (one time only) to bring total to \$395,500. This will allow for existing programs to apply and possibly meet the needs of those in the above table (recommended).
2. Allocate the funds to 2003 Casino funds for distribution in 2003 utilizing the Casino guidelines. Only NEW programs would qualify.
3. Allocate the funds under Council discretion. This could be done through staff with a report to Council.

Financial Impact

Non-at this time as the money has been approved.

Conclusion

There are a number of groups in Richmond who provide very valuable on going services to the residents of Richmond. These programs are continually being compromised due to the lack of funding from various sources.

In August 2002, an ad will be placed in the local papers for application to the 2003 Grants Program. The money will be disbursed in the new year to the qualifying groups. By adding an additional \$79,000 to the grants budget this will increase the budget to \$395,500. Many of the groups applying for Casino money (above table) clearly fall within the grants criteria and less within the Casino criteria. The money which is presently being requested is mainly for **existing** programs.

In 2003, should Council wish to allocate some money from the Casino budget for the **NEW** programs, the proper Casino procedure would be followed.



Anne Stevens
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