



REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-025

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: September 4, 2020

Subject: Grant Request – Rotary Club of Dawson Creek Sunrise

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee review the grant application to determine if a grant in the amount of \$30,000, payable from Community Works Gas Tax, should be authorized and issued to the Rotary Club of Dawson Creek Sunrise for improvements to the Dawson Creek Rotary Trail.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Rotary Club of Dawson Creek Sunrise is seeking grant funding from the Regional District in the amount of \$30,000 to be used to complete upgrades to the Dawson Creek Rotary Trail that runs through the centre of the city. Portions of the trail have deteriorated over time due to the erosion, cracking and crumbling of the existing pavement, which has led to safety concerns and accessibility issues for user groups. The trail promotes outdoor recreation and offers community members an opportunity to be physically active. The Dawson Creek Rotary Trail forms part of the Great Trail of Canada (Trans Canada Trail) that stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and Arctic oceans.

The total cost to complete the project is \$151,140.73 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020. The Rotary Club of Dawson Creek Sunrise and Noon groups are both contributing \$25,000 each for a total of \$50,000 and funding from the Trans Canada Trail has been secured in the amount of \$52,899.25 for a total of \$102,899.25. The City of Dawson Creek was not able to provide any grant funding however, a loan of up to \$120,000 has been authorized. The Regional District has provided the following grants to the applicant in prior years:

- 2015 - \$5,000 Grants to Community Organizations, Special Event - District Conference; and
- 2017 - \$1,000 BC Rail/PRA Grant - Youth Interact Club, Travel Assistance Belize trip.

A grant application was originally submitted to the regionally funded Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid; however, upon learning that grant funding was already allocated for 2020, a decision to withdraw that request and submit an application to the Rural Budgets Administration Committee for consideration was made. This project could be funded using Community Works Gas Tax as it meets the eligibility description under the Recreation Infrastructure investment category. The applicant is a registered not-for-profit society in good standing with the Societies Act.

For further information, please see the attached grant application.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee deny the grant request from the Rotary Club of Dawson Creek Sunrise and provide no grant funding to assist with the improvements to the Dawson Creek Rotary Trail.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

- As of July 31, 2020, the balance available after remaining commitments in the Community Works Gas Tax Reserve fund was \$6,241,346.80.
- Grant contributions provided using Community Works Gas Tax funds are payable through claim reimbursement in order to meet the mandatory requirements for the annual expenditure reporting process.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The applicant will be advised in writing of the Committee's decision and, if approved, asked to recognize the Regional District for its financial contribution.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The applicant and project would be a suitable candidate to be considered for funding under the Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid funding stream, regionally funded through Function 200 Regional Parks. The 2020 budget commitment was \$75,000 of which only \$20,000 was allocated. The grant intake for 2020 closed on November 15, 2019.

If the application was to be referred to the Parks Committee for the consideration of a 2020 grant, the timing of this process may prohibit the applicant from completing the project by the end of 2020.

Attachments:

1. Grant Application – Rotary Club of Dawson Creek Sunrise
2. Gas Tax Grant Funding Policy (RBAC Funding Policies)
3. Community Works Fund – Eligible Project Categories