



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

MEETING DATE: February 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Report APRAC11-006
Communities in Bloom Update

PURPOSE

A report to inform the Committee of the withdrawal of City funding support for Communities in Bloom in 2011.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC11-006 dated February 15, 2011, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

That the report be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget or financial implications in receiving this report.

BACKGROUND

In response to Report CSD10-024, dated May 17, 2010, City Council approved the following:

- a) That the proposed 3-year planning strategy be approved as follows:
 - (i) That the City, through the Committee, remain as a Communities in Bloom Friend and not compete in 2010;
 - (ii) That the City, through the Committee, compete in the National Competition in 2011;
 - (iii) That the City, through the Committee, compete in either the National or International competition in 2012, pending eligibility.
- b) That a contribution of \$20,000 from the Capital Levy Reserve to: assist with the activities planned for 2010; provide staff support; cover the cost of up to three committee members/staff and one political representative to attend the annual conference in Halifax; and begin planning for the 2011 campaign, be approved;
- c) That a City contribution of \$80,000 for 2011 and \$100,000 for 2012 as Council approved enhancements to provide appropriate resources in support of the strategic plan be approved.

During the 2011 budget discussions, however, it became increasingly apparent that the new Council was not as supportive of this initiative. While there may have been some support for a modest financial contribution, staff felt that it was critical to have the full allocation of \$80,000 to provide the resources needed to fulfill the strategic plan. Consequently, staff recommended that the \$80,000 in support of Communities in Bloom be withdrawn as part of the budget reduction strategy to reach the 1.5% target as directed by Council.

The Communities in Bloom Committee has been advised of the outcome of the budget deliberations and will meet soon to discuss the future of this initiative in our community. Staff will transfer any surplus funds from the 2010 budget back into the Committee's Reserve Fund.

Submitted by,

Ken Doherty,
Director of Community Services

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