

REQUEST FOR DECISION

TO: Committee of the Whole **MEETING DATE:** June 12, 2024
FROM: David Douglas, Director of Financial Services
SUBJECT: **Sunshine Coast Community Services' Request for Funding**
FILE NO: 1700-20-2024

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff regarding the Sunshine Coast Community Services' request for funding from the Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy Fund.

PURPOSE

To provide funding options in response to the request from Sunshine Coast Community Services (SCCSS), for their Housing and Services Building initiative, for Council consideration.

OPTIONS

1. That a \$100,000 lump sum donation be approved for the SCCSS Housing and Services Building; and
That the \$100,000 donation be funded from:
 - a. The Affordable Housing Reserve Fund; or
 - b. The Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy Fund.
2. That a \$250,000 lump sum donation be approved for the SCCSS Housing and Services Building; and
That the \$250,000 donation be funded from:
 - a. The Affordable Housing Reserve Fund; or
 - b. The Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy Fund.
3. That a \$1,000,000 lump sum donation be approved for SCCSS Housing and Services Building; and
That the \$1,000,000 donation be funded from the Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy Fund.

4. That an annual donation of \$100,000 be approved for a 10-year term to fund SCCSS Housing and Services Building debt payments; and
That the annual donation of \$100,000 be funded from:
 - a. The Affordable Housing Reserve Fund; or
 - b. The Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy Fund.
5. Do not provide funding to SCCSS for the Housing and Services Building.

DISCUSSION

Summary

At the May 15, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, members of SCCSS requested \$1,000,000 in funding from Council for the SCCSS Housing and Services Building. The District is not obligated to provide funds for this project, however staff have identified two potential funding sources: the Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy Fund and the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund, should Council consider proceeding with a donation. The Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy Fund held \$1,902,734 at 2023 year end, and the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund held \$509,264.

Background

SCCSS is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the community by providing crisis response programs, housing and advocacy for residents and the unhoused population. They aim to build new affordable housing specifically for women and children along with the redevelopment space for their support programs that the entire community will access. The SCCSS is planning 35 units of affordable housing, a community hub and a space to provide services to the vulnerable population. To date they have raised \$30.6 million of funds for the \$34 million project and are very close to having the funds they need to build.

The District of Sechelt's Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy Fund Bylaw No. 529, 2014 includes language that permits "special projects that have the potential to offer long lasting benefits to the community." Provision 4 from the bylaw specifies the intended use of the funds:

Provision 4

"The funds in the "Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy Fund" will be used for special projects that have the potential to offer lasting benefits to the community. The Legacy Fund is not to be used for routine District operational expenses or capital Expenditures".

POLICY AND BYLAW IMPLICATIONS

Although there is no District policy for spending Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy funds, the intention is that the funds be used for special projects that provide lasting benefits to the community.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

1. Social Sustainability and Community Well Being

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

2. Housing

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At year end of 2023, the Community Forest Legacy Reserve Fund held a balance of \$1,902,734 and the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund held a balance of \$509,264.

Allocating funding to SCCSS will impact the District's ability to invest in other community housing projects or special projects due to opportunity costs. Council has previously agreed to waive District of Sechelt Development Cost Charges for the 34 proposed residential units.

COMMUNICATIONS

Staff will inform Sunshine Coast Community Services of the decision.

Respectfully submitted,

David Douglas

Director of Financial Services

Attachments:

- 1 – District of Sechelt Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy Fund Bylaw No. 529, 2014