

Community and Organisational Development Report

Committee Consideration – 11 September 2012
Council Resolution – 25 September 2012

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CM07.12	Proposed Blessing of the River Event
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Committee	11 September 2012
Council	25 September 2012

Applicant	City of Nedlands
Owner	City of Nedlands
Officer	Misha Elliott – Community Development Officer (Community Groups and Events)
Director	Marion Granich – A/Director Community & Organisational Development
Director Signature	
File ref	CMS/505
Previous Item No's	NA
Disclosure of Interest	No officer involved in the preparation of this report had any interest which required it to be declared in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act (1995)</i> .

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to determine whether Council wishes to hold a Blessing of the River event and if so, to obtain approval for the expenditure of unbudgeted funds to do so.

Recommendation to Committee

Council approves expenditure of \$4,250 in unbudgeted funds to provide a Blessing of the River event, this expenditure to be incorporated into the midyear budget review

Strategic Plan

KFA 4: Community Wellbeing

To provide a Community where people have an opportunity to interact and enjoy a sense of belonging in order to promote:

- Healthy lifestyles;
- A safe and secure community; and
- Quality of life.

4.4 Continue to develop a sense of community through the promotion of cultural events and programs.

Background

The Swan River Trust has written to the Mayors of Councils with Swan and Canning River frontages, encouraging them to host a Blessing of the River Event in 2012.

The aim of a Blessing of the River event is to promote the river's significance, embrace the Aboriginal history of the local area and make a symbolic commitment to the river's protection over the coming year.

The City of Canning held a successful event last year, with further local governments planning events this year. The Swan River Trust hopes to see the expansion of this event along the river, with it becoming a part of the annual calendar of events for local governments with river frontages.

The Swan River Trust has proposed Saturday 8 December 2012 for this year's Blessing of the River events.

Proposal

Should Council wish to take part, it is proposed that the City would provide a community focused event on Beaton Park on Saturday 8 December 2012.

The event will feature some kind of indigenous entertainment and cultural celebration, in which local community members can take part. Refreshments will be provided and the event will be promoted to the whole community. The educational and environmental aspects of the event will also make it suitable for promoting through the City's 10 local schools. The event will celebrate the significance of the river to the community's sense of place and its importance to both indigenous and non-indigenous people.

Consultation

Required by legislation: Yes No

Required by City of Nedlands policy: Yes No

No consultation has been undertaken as yet, as Council has not yet decided whether to undertake the event. Should Council decide to do so, City staff would then liaise with the Swan River Trust, appropriate indigenous groups, local community organizations and local schools.

Policy

Not Applicable

Legislation

Not Applicable

Budget/financial implications

Budget:

Within current approved budget: Yes No

Requires further budget consideration: Yes No

As this event has not been budgeted for, should Council wish to proceed with it, approval will need to be given for unbudgeted expenditure of \$4,250. These funds will be used to provide catering, equipment hire, promotion and entertainment.

For the event to proceed, approval of funds will be needed by 30 September and therefore cannot be delayed until the midyear budget review.

Risk Management

As with all events organized by the City, an event management risk assessment will be undertaken before the event in order to mitigate any potential risks.

Discussion

This request from the Swan River Trust provides an opportunity for an additional community-focused event. The event would have the advantage of an interesting focus. It is likely to appeal to all age-groups, from school children because of its educational aspects to older community members because of its historical focus. Positive intergenerational community events help build community cohesion and a strong sense of place.

This specific event also provides an opportunity to link with other celebrations along the river. While the wider networks are not yet developed, if a number of local governments take up the event, in the future they will be able to support each other's promotion of their individual events. The event has the potential to grow into a uniquely West Australian celebration of community, culture, environment and history.

Conclusion

It is therefore recommended that Council approve the unbudgeted expenditure of \$4,250 to host the Blessing of the River Event in December 2012.

Attachments

Nil

CM08.12	Access Working Group – Council Representation
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Committee	11 September 2012
Council	25 September 2012

Applicant	City of Nedlands
Owner	City of Nedlands
Officer	Marion Granich – A/Director Community & Organisational Development
Director	Marion Granich – A/Director Community & Organisational Development
Director Signature	
File ref.	CMS/505
Previous Item No's	Nil
Disclosure of Interest	No officer involved in the preparation of this report had any interest which required it to be declared in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act (1995)</i> .

Purpose

This report is in response to a request by Councillor Kerry Walker to be a Council representative on the City's Access Working Group.

Recommendation to Committee

Council appoints Cr _____ to be its representative on the City's Access Working Group.

Strategic Plan

- KFA 4: Community Wellbeing
 - 4.1 Provide and facilitate access to services and facilities required by the broader community, clubs and community groups.

- KFA 5: Governance
 - 5.6 Ensure compliance with statutory requirements and guidelines.

- KFA 6: Community Engagement
 - 6.2 Encourage community participation in the City's decision making processes.

Background

The City's Access Working Group is an Administrative Liaison Working Group that provides advice to Administration on issues related to disability access and inclusion. To be eligible for membership, community members must demonstrate expertise in the area of disability and inclusion. Such expertise may include being a person with disability; a parent of a child or young person with disability; and/or working in a disability-related field.

The Access Working Group meets with City staff quarterly.

Proposal Detail

It is proposed that Council appoint a Councillor to be its representative on the Access Working Group, to facilitate communication between the group and Council.

Consultation

Required by legislation: Yes No

Required by City of Nedlands policy: Yes No

Access Working Group members have been consulted and are of the view that it would be positive to have a Councillor appointed to be a member of the Access Working Group.

Legislation

The *Western Australian Disability Services Act 1993 (amended in 2004)* requires that all public authorities ensure that the services, facilities, information, events and consultation opportunities provided by them are accessible by people with disabilities.

Budget/financial implications

Budget:

Within current approved budget: Yes No

Requires further budget consideration: Yes No

There are no direct budget implications of this decision.

Risk Management

There are no significant risks associated with this proposal.

Discussion

The Access Working Group was originally established to provide a way for Administration to liaise directly with community members with disability expertise. It also assists with the City meeting its statutory requirement to ensure that all consultation undertaken is equally available to people with disabilities as to the community as a whole.

To date, there has been no Councillor representative on the Access Working Group. However, there is nothing to preclude Councillor representation on the group, and having a Councillor as a member can only assist with communication between the group and Council.

Conclusion

It is therefore proposed that Council appoint a Councillor representative to the Access Working Group.

Attachments

Nil