


Community and Organisational Development Report

Committee Consideration – 14 May 2013
Council Resolution – 28 May 2013

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| Committee | 14 May 2013 |
| Council | 28 May 2013 |
| Applicant | City of Nedlands |
| Officer | Megan Chittock – Community Development Officer (Youth & Children) Marion Granich – Manager Community Development |
| Director | Darla Blake – Director Community & Organisational Development |
| Director Signature |  |
| File Reference | CMS/505 |
| Previous Item | N / A |

Executive Summary

Moerlina School is requesting a financial contribution from Council for a series of workshops on the importance of play. Council is asked to provide \$1,000 in return for an offer to sponsor the workshops. The matter is referred to Council as the project does not meet the criteria of either the City's Community Grants Fund or Youth Grants Fund.

Recommendation to Committee

Council agrees to provide the Moerlina School with a letter of support for its proposed workshop series on play, but does not agree to enter into the \$1,000 sponsorship arrangement as requested by the school.

Strategic Plan

KFA 4: Governance and Civic Leadership

Background

Moerlina School is one of eleven schools within the City of Nedlands. It is an independent primary school in Mount Claremont providing an inquiry-based, student-centred approach to teaching the WA state and national curricula. It has

approximately 100 students from pre-kindergarten to Year 7. Moerlina is co-educational, multi-cultural and non-denominational. The school prioritises small, multi-age classrooms, catering to the individual needs of children and their families.

Administration has Delegated Authority to assess Community Grants and Youth Grants. However, Administration does not have Delegated Authority to assess other miscellaneous requests to Council for funding.

Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions:

Nil

Discussion

In July 2013 Moerlina School will provide workshops on social development in children and young people, focusing on the way play contributes to their development. These workshops will be facilitated by UK consultant Marc Armitage. Moerlina is aiming the workshop at teachers and parents as well as local government policy officers and planning officers.

Parents will pay \$52 to attend the parent seminars and other attendees will pay between \$149 and \$380 for full day workshops.

In February, the City received a letter from Moerlina School requesting a financial contribution to assist with costs involved in providing these workshops, in exchange for sponsorship. The sponsorship offer consists of:

- a reduced rate for two City of Nedlands staff to attend the workshops (value unspecified);
- City branding in the marketing of the workshops; and
- marketing space at the workshop venue free of charge.

The cost to Council of the sponsorship package is \$1,000.

Council supports general community projects and events through its Community Grants Fund, while youth-specific community projects are supported through the Youth Grants Fund. This workshop project does not meet the eligibility criteria for either the City's Community Grants Fund or Youth Grants Fund.

One of the reasons this project is ineligible for Council's Community Grants Fund is because there is a charge to participants. To be eligible for a grant under the Community Grants Fund, events and projects must be provided free to the community. For example: Christmas Carols events funded through the Community Grants Fund are provided to the community with no entrance fee.

A second reason this project is ineligible for Council's Community Grants Fund is that the Fund expressly prohibits projects that can be considered core activities of the applicant organisation. This project – workshops on the developmental aspects of play for children and young people – could be considered a core school activity, being professional development for teachers and child-related information for parents.

The City's Youth Grants Fund is aimed primarily at youth participation in the wider community. This project does not meet the criteria for the City's Youth Grants Fund as it not aimed primarily at participation by young people. Rather, these workshops are provided primarily for teachers, parents and other professionals - although the content of the workshops is certainly focused on the needs of children and young people. Since the main aim of the Youth Grant Fund is the active participation of young people in the community, this project is not eligible for a grant under that fund.

As this request is not eligible for funding under either the City's Community Grants Fund or Youth Grant Fund – the City's funds for supporting community initiatives - the matter is referred to Council for consideration, as a miscellaneous funding request.

In summary, the City recognises that this project is of value to the Moerlina school community, including parents and teachers. It is also commendable that Moerlina will offer places in the workshops to participants from the wider community. However, the project is primarily aimed at the school community, rather than the wider community, with offers of places to non-school related participants being secondary to the main aim of the project, which is primarily a core school activity.

Consultation

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Required by legislation: | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Required by City of Nedlands policy: | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

The Principal of Moerlina School, Perette Minciullo, has been consulted in the preparation of this report. Ms Minciullo is aware that this project is not eligible for either of Council's funds aimed at supporting community initiative, but has chosen to proceed with a miscellaneous request to Council for funding support.

Legislation / Policy

The Community Grant Fund Procedure states that the following types of projects will not be funded: "Core business activities – this fund is not intended to support activities that can be viewed as the 'core' business of the applicant organisation" and "Projects or events that charge a fee. To be eligible for funding, events or projects must be provided to the community free of charge".

The Youth Grants Fund Procedure states that eligible projects must "provide an opportunity for youth participation".

Budget/Financial Implications

Within current approved budget: Yes No
Requires further budget consideration: Yes No

Funding for this project is unbudgeted.

Risk Management

The main risk is one of cost-shifting. Local government does not have responsibility for school funding, which is a state government responsibility. If the City is to continue to fulfil its wide range of existing responsibilities, it is important to acknowledge that it does not have the capacity to take on new responsibilities for funding core activities that are the responsibility of other organisations and other levels of government.

Conclusion

Therefore, it is recommended that the City provides Moerlina School with a letter of support for its proposed workshop series, but does not enter into the sponsorship arrangement as requested by the school.

Attachments

Nil