



Date 26 March 2010

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Compton & Members of Council

Fr: Karen Brown

Re: Triple Play Funding

Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves releasing a \$15,000 grant to Triple Play for the purposes of funding administration in accordance with the allocation approved in the City's 2010 operating budget.

Background:

In the 2010 budget process, Council approved an allocation to Triple Play in the amount of \$15,000 to assist with administration costs. During the budget deliberations, it was requested that this grant be held pending a subsequent review. Subsequent to budget approval, a follow up letter was sent to Triple Play. I had the pleasure of meeting with Jack Martin and Suzanne Penner of the Triple Play Executive together with Tanya Watts (Program Coordinator) today in follow up. In particular, there were two things that Council had requested to be addressed and were discussed as follows:

- 1. The past and current allocation of City funding, in order to confirm that this funding was being used to fund administration costs, and not used for children's programming.** This issue first arose when the 2008 Triple Play budget request was made. That request showed City funding as being used towards funding children's programming. When this was questioned, it was confirmed that this had been in error, and that the City funding was required for administration funding. An amended budget request was brought forward. Council directed that City administration contact Triple Play and confirm how the 2007 City funding had been used. At that time, it was confirmed through the accounting staff at the Lake of the Woods Child Development Centre that the 2007 funding had been allocated to children's programming. There was no City funding given to Triple Play in 2009 as that organization withdrew their funding request prior to budget approval. As such, this matter was not addressed until the 2010 budget request. The Executive Committee has investigated this matter. They have confirmed that the 2007 funding was incorrectly allocated to children's programming in error. They have further confirmed that funding received in both 2006 and 2008 was properly allocated to administration. The Executive Committee has also

communicated this matter to the relevant accounting staff in order to ensure that this type of mistake does not happen in the future. A copy of their response letter has been attached for your reference.

- 2. Ongoing fundraising by Triple P.L.A.Y., and whether recent funding received represented a reduction in the requirement for funding from the City.** Following the 2010 delegation made by Triple Play, an independent presentation made by the Kenora and Lake of the Woods Community Foundation noted that they had been able to generate some recent funding for Triple Play (\$2,500). During the presentation, it was thought that this funding was also being matched through the Richardson Challenge Grant. Following the presentations, this matter was followed up on, and the City received clarification that the additional funds raised were not eligible for the Richardson Challenge Grant. In addition, the Executive confirmed today that the \$2,500 was included under miscellaneous donations in the 2010 budget request.

It would appear that the concerns related to City funding have been addressed. Triple Play has also provided the City with an updated 2010 budget, a copy of which has been attached for your reference. It should be noted that the amended budget reflects a small surplus of \$1,523. This surplus has been discussed with the Triple Play Executive to determine if the City's grant request should be reduced by an offsetting amount. Tanya Watts has advised that the amended budget reflects a reduction in costs supported through the administration line by the elimination of one-time events, such as "Take a Kid Fishing Day". It is the Executive's preference to receive the entire \$15,000 in order to ensure that these events continue to occur.

As a matter of interest, since September 2009, the Triple Play executive has also tightened their policy for assistance. There has been a thirty percent increase in applications over the previous year, and while the number of children assisted has increased by around 20%, the funds used to do this have not increased. Some of the changes implemented since September include: limiting children to one activity only and reducing the ceiling for assistance. In addition, focus has shifted to tier 1 needs only, based on household income. Up to the tenth anniversary of Triple Play, no one was denied assistance. Today this is no longer the case, although Triple Play has committed to helping all tier 1 families this year.

Budget:

The \$15,000 is included in the City's approved in the City's 2010 municipal operating budget.

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

Triple Play will be notified of Council's decision in this matter.

Cc: Bill Preisentanz