



May 3, 2010

City Council Committee Report

TO: Mayor & Council

FR: Jennifer Findlay, Economic Development Officer

RE: By-Law Authorizing Signing of Funding Agreement

Recommendation:

THAT Council adopt a by-law authorizing an Agreement with the Province of Ontario for funding for the development of a Municipal Cultural Plan; and

THAT Council appoints a member of Council to the project steering committee.

Background:

On October 19, 2009, City Council passed the following resolution:

"Municipal Cultural Planning Process

21. Moved by W. Cuthbert, Seconded by C. Drinkwater & Carried:-

That Council hereby authorizes the undertaking of the Municipal Cultural Planning process for the City of Kenora; and further

That Administration is hereby directed to apply to the Creative Communities Prosperity Fund for this purpose."

Administration completed the application for the funding in October 2009 as directed by Council. In March 2010, the City of Kenora received notification that the funding application had been approved for \$20,000. Shortly thereafter, the City received the funding agreement (see attached) for signature.

The "Creative Communities Prosperity Fund" is being administered by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. The funding will enable the City of Kenora to complete a Municipal Cultural Plan. Municipal cultural planning supports local economic development and is increasingly being recognized as essential to prosperous, livable and sustainable communities.

A Municipal Cultural Plan is a municipally-led effort to identify cultural resources in the community, recognize them as assets and plan for their incorporation into all aspects of the municipality's work in order to maximize their contribution to the community's vitality. A Municipal Cultural Plan will identify ways in which to make the community more attractive as a place to live for locals and newcomers and also as a tourism destination through the identification of potential tourism product and venue development.

Once completed and adopted, the Municipal Cultural Plan will become a planning document upon which to base future funding applications.

The Municipal Cultural Plan will build on existing projects and work, including: the City of Kenora Economic Development Plan, Tourism Strategy, the Kenora Community Strategy, Official Plan Review, work of the Heritage Committee, Grant Thornton Study, and Trails Study (2002).

Budget: \$25,000

The total estimated costs for this project are \$25,000 for consulting fees. 80% funding has been approved by the Ministry of Tourism & Culture. The \$5,000 balance is in the current budget of the Lake of the Woods Development Commission under Contracted Services

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements: Public consultations will form part of the plan development process. Once the final plan is adopted in 2011, there will be a media release. The final plan will be posted on the city portal.