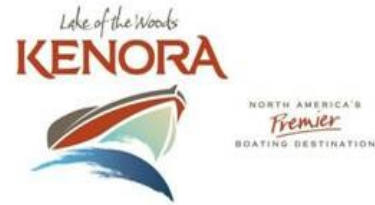


July 31, 2013



City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council

Fr: Lauren D'Argis

Re: Application for Funding for Tunnel Island Partnership

Recommendation:

That Council of the City of Kenora hereby directs administration to work with the Tunnel Island partners to develop a funding application for maximum of 50% funding to the Culture Development Fund and subsequently to other funders such as FEDNOR and / or NOHFC for an additional 40%.

Background:

Tunnel Island:

On November 8, 2006, the City of Kenora, Grand Council Treaty #3 and Abitibi Consolidated signed a historically significant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU signaled Abitibi's intent to gift over 300 acres of green space with an estimated value in the millions, in the middle of the City of Kenora to the Common Ground Stewardship Group. The Common Ground Stewardship Group was comprised of representatives from the City and the Grand Council and three neighbouring First Nation communities of Wauzhusk Onigum, Ochiichagwe'Babigo'Ining and Obashkaandagaang Bay.

The Common Ground Stewardship Group has established that there is enough of a common vision for the use of Tunnel Island and that the partners would continue to work together.

At Abitibi's request, an incorporated legal entity was established to manage the land called the Common Ground Rat Portage Conservation Organization (CGRPCO). The organization is registered as a non-profit corporation with a board of 8 members comprised of four representatives from the City of Kenora and four representatives from the partners.

There is strong interest by all of the parties to renew the Tunnel Island partnership and to get the project underway. This funding would allow for the hiring of a champion for this cause.

Funding application:

The primary funder will be the Culture Development Fund. The maximum available is 50% of \$75,000 per year for two years. Another 40% of the \$75,000 can be raised through other funders. It is anticipated that NOHFC and / or FEDNOR will be approached for the 40%. The remaining 10% or \$7,500 will be the responsibility of the CGRPCO and some portion of that will be the responsibility of the City of Kenora.

Budget Implications:

If the application for 50% is approved by the Cultural Development Fund, applications will be made for 40% to other funders. If the additional 40% is raised, the CGRPCO will be approached for the remaining 10%.

The Lake of the Woods Development Commission will be responsible for any funding agreed to be the obligation of the City of Kenora.

CC:

Charlotte Edie
Charlotte Caron
Jennifer Findlay