



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Mariner Center Expansion committee request for additional funding to cover the Fundraising RFP

Date: Feb 22, 2022

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community, and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Request and Additional Information:

At the last meeting on February 16, 2022, the Mariner Center expansion committee (MCEC) passed a funding request motion *asking the three Council's for bridge-funding in the amount of \$20,000 per Municipality to fund the Fundraising RFP*. The MCEC committee had submitted an RFP for applicants a few months ago (September 2021) and are now ready to award the winner however they do not have enough money in their budget to cover the cost in hiring this firm. This is the reason for the funding request to council.

Background

Prior to this request, MCEC had requested a total of 100,000 from all 3 councils. This initial investment was for feasibility study of the project and to assist MCEC cover some of their cost associated with this process. This money would allow them to make financial decision without coming to council every time they needed money to advance this project. At this time, we have only spent 30,600, however the balance left from the 100,000 is not enough to fund the fundraising RFP. MODA portion of the 100,000 was for 30.66%.

Budget Impact.

As we are coming to an end of the fiscal year, and more than likely fund would not be needed in this fiscal year. This funding request should be deferred to the 2022-23 fiscal year and can be budgeted so it does not become an extra expense this year.

Suggestions

Option #1 We approve the request from MCEC for additional 20,000 bridge-funding to pay the cost of hiring a firm for the Fundraising campaign

Option #2 Denied the request.

Recommendation:

Recommend Option #1, We accept this funding request and the funds gets budgeted in next year budget so it does not become an extra expense for this year. By denying this motion, would send a negative message from MODA for this project considering we just passed a motion for ownership. Also, the lack of funding from MODA could risk the timing of fundraising efforts. The ownership motion was very well received at the last MCEC meeting and brought enthusiasm from committee members. This would continue to show solidarity in this project.

Suggested motion.

Move that Council approve to \$20,000 bridge fund to the Mariner Center expansion committee to fund the Fundraising campaign and that these funds be budget in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.