



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: CA02021-005

Meeting Date: April 6, 2021

Title: CA02021-005 Olde Gaol Museum

Description: Funding options to support the Olde Gaol Museum and Victoria County Historical Society (VCHS) collection. VCHS requested funding from Council for two staff positions for 2021 programs and operations.

Author and Title: Ron Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommendation(s):

That Report CA02021-005, **Olde Gaol Museum**, be received; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 9, 2021, Council adopted the following resolution:

CW2021-047

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Reilly

Seconded By Councillor Richardson

That the deputation of Jane Gregory Gill, President, Victoria County Historical Society, **regarding Olde Gaol Museum Funding**, be received;

That the funding request in the amount of \$132,000.00 be referred to the CAO for review and report back at April 6, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting on options that are available to assist the Victoria County Historical Society; and

That this recommendation be forwarded to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Carried

This report addresses that direction.

Council received a deputation from VCHS at the March 9, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting. The accompanying written submission is provided in Appendix B to this report.

Olde Gaol Museum Funding

Jane Gregory-Gill, Victoria County Historical Society

Jane Gregory-Gill, President of the Victoria County Historical Society, requested that the City provide financial assistance in the amount of \$132,000.00 to aid in the operation of the Olde Gaol Museum. The financial assistance would allow the Victoria County Historical Society to secure two full time employees.

Carried

A previous deputation and submission from VCHS was received by Council on August 20, 2020. The accompanying written submission is provided in Appendix D to this report.

CR2020-225

Moved By Councillor Dunn

Seconded By Deputy Mayor O'Reilly

That the deputation of Jane Gregory-Gill and Barbara Doyle, on behalf of the Victoria County Historical Society, **regarding a Lease Agreement with the Victoria County Historical Society for the Olde Gaol Museum**, be received.

Carried

Both deputations provided an update on VCHS operations, and requests to the City for funding to support staffing costs.

Later in 2020, a follow up "Support for Operations Funding" submission was made by VCHS for Council's consideration through the 2021 City budget deliberations. That submission is included as Appendix C to this report.

Following Council's March 2021 direction, the CAO established an internal review team consisting of staff from Economic Development, Community Services and the Clerks Office. On March 24 2021, the CAO, and Director, Community Services, met with the VCHS Board for further input and information from them.

Meeting notes, with supplementary information provided by the Board for Council consideration, are provided in Appendix A to this report.

Rationale:

As noted previously, this report is intended to provide Council with options that are available to assist the VCHS in response to their March 2021 funding request in the amount of \$132,000.00 for staffing costs.

Essentially, there are 4 options for Council to consider:

Option 1 – Status Quo

- Continue as is with current municipal arrangements/supports/funding. Includes the provision of space and fixed cost operating funding (utilities, for example).
- No municipal funding for staffing provided.
- Some ongoing municipal staff supports provided on request.
- VCHS continues volunteer-supported operations, fundraising, and grant funding for Museum operations, and owns and maintains the collection.

Option 2 – Increase municipal funding to VCHS

- Continue with funding and supports outlined in option 1, above, and provide additional funding for staff.
- \$132,000 requested for two staff positions for 2021.
- Annual staff funding requested beyond 2021 (exceeding 2021 request).

Option 3 – Increase municipal role in Museum/Collection curation

- Continue with funding and supports outlined in option 1, above.
- Provide additional direct municipal staff to support VCHS and other museum and cultural operations - management, operations, programming, curation and/or archival services through existing and/or new city staff position(s).

Option 4 – City own/operate/manage the Museum and Collection

- The City would assume ownership of VCHS's collection, subject to their agreement.
- The City would continue to own the Olde Gaol Museum building, and would lead curation and programming of the Museum.
- VCHS would serve in an "advisory role" for operations, and continue to provide volunteers where needed.

CKL Policy/Plan Guidance:

There are twelve culture and heritage organizations in the City of Kawartha Lakes. For a number of years, the sector has been working with the City to create an understanding and develop program concepts to support the operation of all organizations.

In 2017, the City initiated an update of its Cultural Master Plan. Through extensive consultation, a number of objectives were identified as ways to collectively enhance and help those organizations with collections. 2020-2030 Cultural Master Plan has identified:

3.1 Priority One: Build Cultural Sector Capacity

Objective 2. Kawartha Lakes museums & galleries have access to professional conservationist /curatorial staff expertise, training and assistance in collections management and care and now qualify for a wide range of provincial/federal cultural grants. They have established partnerships with and work effectively with Fleming College's Museum Management program.

3.2 Priority Two: Address Local Factors Inhibiting Cultural Sector Growth

Objective 3. There is effective inter-departmental consideration of the cultural dimensions of development and city operations.

3.3 Priority Three: Improve Cultural Spaces & Places

Objective 1. Climate controlled collections storage space is available to all CKL cultural organizations

Objective 3. Cultural facilities are equitably supported by the municipality

Objective 7. Heritage assets are protected and conserved and contribute to a thriving local economy.

3.4 Priority Four: Expand Cultural Sector Funding Options

(from the descriptor of the priority) Rather than responding to the needs and aspirations of each cultural organization on a case by case basis, the municipality can maximize beneficial outcomes and ensure equity by offering structured support and assistance that is performance-based and can be accessed by all across the sector.

3.6 Priority Six: Collaborate and Build Partnerships

Objective 1: Cultural sector organizations and businesses work in partnership with the municipality in order to foster and achieve a thriving and sustainable cultural economy
Objective 5. All CKL cultural organizations have access to professional conservationist / curatorial advice or staff assistance.

All of these Cultural Master Plan priorities were established pre-pandemic, with many implementation objectives paused or delayed throughout 2020 and into 2021. They remain high priority.

It is recommended that the City and local Arts, Culture and Heritage sector organizations remain committed to, and aligned with, the action items contained in the Cultural Master Plan.

It is further recommended that City staff review in 2021 city staffing model(s) to lead and support structure and actions contained in the Cultural Master Plan, and provide for staffing recommendations through the 2022 operating budget process. This review could include discussions with organizations, the local Arts Council, Culture and Heritage Network, and Cultural Centre Task Force, among others.

Discussions should continue in 2021 with staff and VCHS to review and determine:

- Best ownership of the collection – VCHS owned and maintained vs. accession of the collection to the City.
- Opportunities for shared collections programming and support collaborative exhibits with the other facilities in our area.
- The role of VCHS in the Olde Gaol Museum operations and management.

Other Alternatives Considered:

The recommendations provided above do not directly address the request for 2021 staff funding for VCHS.

Council could choose to fund, in whole or in part, the \$132,000 requested for 2021. If this option is chosen, then the following resolution should be passed:

That the City provide one-time funding to the Victoria County Historical Society to an upset limit of (*insert funding amount*) in 2021, with funding to come from the pandemic recovery contingency reserve; and

That the VCHS provide 2021 year-end financial statements to the City outlining operations and utilization of the City's funding.

The above-noted option would be considered a pandemic recovery, one-time funding to maintain 2021 operations at the Olde Gaol Museum, and allow for mobilization and time for permanent supports and solutions beyond 2021.

Council could choose to accelerate investment in municipal staffing to support the arts, culture and heritage sector, with an immediate priority focus on the 2021 VCHS museum operations and securement of outside grants. This could include realigning some existing staff priorities and work plans, and hiring a Museum Curator, or like position in 2021, to work initially with the VCHS Board, and subsequently with other museum organizations. If this option is chosen, then the following resolution should be passed:

That the CAO be authorized to establish, and recruit for, a municipal museum curator, or equivalent, as soon as possible, and to be an established position within the Economic Development Division; and

That this position be funded through the 2021 operating budget.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

Continued support for the Arts, Culture and Heritage sector aligns with Council's strategic priority of "An Exceptional Quality of Life". Actions to accomplish this priority include:

- Enhance community involvement
- Foster civic pride
- Update and execute the Cultural Master Plan
- Support and promote arts, culture and heritage

Financial/Operation Impacts:

Financial impacts of options are outlined in this report. Should council pursue any other options or request review(s) by staff, it is recommended that reporting back include more detailed financial implications.

Consultations:

Director of Community Services
City Clerk
Manager, Economic Development
Manager, Corporate Records and Archival Services
Economic Development Officer- Arts and Culture

Victoria County Historical Society Board

Attachments:

Appendix A – Meeting Notes – March 24 2021 Meeting with VCHS Board



Appendix A -
Meeting Notes Marc

Appendix B – VCHS March 9 2021 written deputation notes



Appendix B - VCHS
Support Required fr

Appendix C – VCHS Support for Operations Funding submission, 2020



Appendix C - Olde
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Appendix D – VCHS Report to CKL Council, August 20 2020



Appendix D - Olde
Gaol Museum - Rep

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