

STAFF REPORT: RECREATION



REPORT TO: Infrastructure and Recreation Committee
MEETING DATE: October 13, 2009
REPORT NO.: DOR 09 055
SUBJECT: 2010 Hanging Basket Beautification
PREPARED BY: Terry Green, Manager of Parks & Trails

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR.09.055 “ 2010 Hanging Basket Beautification” for information purposes.

B. Background

For 8 years the Thornbury BIA and the Town have partnered to provide hanging baskets and banners for street light posts for beautification of the Downtown Core. The previous agreement for this partnership had the Town provide the BIA \$5,000.00 for this project on an annual basis. The BIA in turn purchased the hanging baskets that cost approximately \$4500.00 per year, the BIA also paid for the watering of the Hanging Baskets by Town Staff in the amount of \$4815.00.

The Recreation Department has reviewed this partnership and has provided an alternative option for the purchasing and maintaining of the hanging baskets in the Town with no cost to the Thornbury BIA.

Within the existing funding of \$5,000.00, typically provided to the Thornbury BIA to purchase and maintain the flowers consistent with the past operations, Staff would reduce the number of hanging basket from 108 to 40. However, Staff suggests that 55 hanging baskets could be situated in locations and watered on a daily basis and would have an additional cost of \$1,500.00 for a total of \$6500.00 for the 2010 season. Staff is reviewing options of additional banners, signage, and public art to replace the 53 baskets on the poles that would typically have hanging baskets in the past.

Staff has also reviewed the possibility of reducing watering from daily watering to every other day watering to reduce costs. The Parks Department have maintained the hanging baskets for the last 8 years and from past experience, the hanging baskets require watering on a daily basis to ensure a healthy appearance and extended life into the fall season.

C. The Blue Mountains’ Strategic Plan

Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community

Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community

D. Environmental Impacts

Hanging Baskets provide Beautification to the Downtown Core, as well were identified in the 2009 First Impressions Report as a positive aspect of the Community.

E. Budget Impact

Reduction to 40 from 108 hanging baskets can be funded by existing \$5,000.00 typically supplied to the Thornbury BIA

Reduction to 55 from 108 hanging Baskets requires additional \$1,500.00 funding from previous years

Funding for additional banner maybe required. Banners approximate cost is \$120.00 per banner depending on artwork and single or double sided banners being ordered.

F. Attachments

Attachment #1 – Map of recommended basket locations for 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

For more information, please contact:

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