

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

From: Sue Glenn, Supervisor Programs and Services
 Meeting Date: March 4, 2019
 File No:
 RE: **TOWN OF LADYSMITH POET LAUREATE**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council refer the Draft Poet Laureate Terms of Reference to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee for comment.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this staff report is to outline a process for the nomination, assessment and selection of the Ladysmith Poet Laureate.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

Resolution	Meeting Date	Council Resolution Details
CS 2018-461	2018-11-19	That Council refer to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee the recommendation by the Ladysmith and District Arts Council in their correspondence dated October 18, 2018, to appoint John Edwards as the first poet laureate for the Town of Ladysmith.
CS 2018-483	2018-12-03	That Council define the terms and formalize a process to select a candidate for Ladysmith's First Poet Laureate.
		PRCAC Recommendation Details
	2018-11-21	That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee supports this initiative and recommends that Council consider defining the terms and formalize a process to select the successful candidate.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

A Poet Laureate provides an opportunity to recognize the importance of arts, culture and literature in the Town and enrich the life of the community members.

Through this process, Town Staff reviewed three current policies from other municipalities: City of Nanaimo, City of Victoria and City of Vancouver. The Town of Ladysmith Draft Policy – Poet Laureate and Terms of Reference is a consolidation of these three reviewed policies and highlights each applicable section, while also including local and regional specific terms.

The selection of a Poet Laureate is proposed to be coordinated through a partnership between the Town and the Arts Council of Ladysmith and District.

Subject to Council approval of the Term of Policy outlined in Appendix A of this report, a call for application or nomination will be issued. Nominations/applications will be invited from published poets who are currently residents in Ladysmith and the CVRD, and who have either an established body of work or who have been recognized for notable contributions early in their career.

Submissions will be evaluated by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee, two representatives from the Arts Council of Ladysmith and District and a representative from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. A recommendation will then be brought to Town Council. It is recommended that the successful Poet Laureate will be announced by the Town during National Poetry Week in April.

Submissions will include examples of past artistic work as well as specific proposals for how the poet will create, present or perform works of poetry relevant to civic events and lives of the citizens of Ladysmith and area.

It would not be recommended to create another committee to oversee this, rather utilize existing committees to manage the program.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council can choose to:

- Not proceed with the Poet Laureate program at this time;
- Seek another organization to lead the Poet Laureate program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The costs associated with this program would be approximately \$1,200 annually, funded through the Town's Financial Plan. The funding is currently not included in the 2019 Financial plan and would need to be included if the program is to move forward.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

None identified at this time.

CITIZEN/PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:

None identified at this time.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS:

None identified at this time.

ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABILITY VISIONING REPORT:

☐ Complete Community Land Use

☐ Low Impact Transportation

- ☐ Green Buildings
- ☐ Innovative Infrastructure
- ☒ Healthy Community
- ☐ Not Applicable

- ☐ Multi-Use Landscapes
- ☐ Local Food Systems
- ☐ Local, Diverse Economy

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- ☐ Employment & Tax Diversity
- ☐ Watershed Protection & Water Management
- ☒ Communications & Engagement
- ☐ Natural & Built Infrastructure
- ☒ Partnerships
- ☐ Not Applicable

SUMMARY:

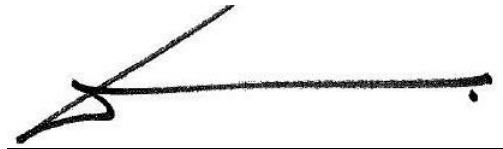
The Poet Laureate program was an idea presented to Council. The concept is currently in practice in other communities and the Town would be able to initiate the program by developing a policy which outlines a process for the nomination, assessment and selection of the Ladysmith Poet Laureate.



Clayton Postings,
Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture

February 23, 2019

I concur with the recommendation.



Guillermo Ferrero, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A – Draft Policy – Poet Laureate