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Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

MODL Council Chambers, 10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville NS

1. Call to Order

1.1. Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition

2.1 Remembering Portapique

3. Public Input (15 Minutes)

4. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)

5. Approval of Minutes – Nil

6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

7. Presentations/Scheduled Times - Nil

8. Referral from Council - Nil

9. Staff Reports

9.1 Administration Department

9.1.1 Proposed Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law 1-5

9.1.2 2023 Staff Survey Results..... 6-11

9.2 Recreation Department

9.2.1 Food Vibes Riverport – Funding and Partnership Request..... 12-18

10. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters

10.1 Policy on Financial Donations (Councillor Haysom) 19

11. Added Items

12. In Camera

12.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

12.2 Potential Litigation under Section 22(2)(f) of the MGA

13. Adjournment

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to:	**Policy & Strategy Committee**
Submitted by:	**Tom MacEwan, CAO**
Date:	**April 16, 2024**
Re:	**Neighbourhood Nuisance Bylaw**

Council Direction

On October 10, 2023, Council gave direction to staff to present a report to Council on Nuisance Bylaws.

Authority

Pursuant to section 172(1)(a) of the **Municipal Government Act** ("MGA"), Council has the general authority to make bylaws respecting the "health, well-being, safety and protection of persons".

More specifically, section 172(1)(d) of the MGA provides Council with the authority to make bylaws respecting "nuisances, activities and things that, in the opinion of Council, may be or cause nuisances".

Nuisance

While not defined in the MGA, "nuisance" is generally defined as interference with the use and enjoyment of land belonging to another.

The draft Bylaw prohibits people from engaging in activity that unreasonably disturbs the peace of the neighbourhood and makes it an offence for any person to engage in an activity that unreasonably disturbs the peace of the neighbourhood.

"Neighbourhood" is defined to mean in the same area or nearby including but not limited to the area within sight and/or sound of the subject property and/or the activity.

In considering whether the peace of the neighbourhood has been unreasonably disturbed, the Bylaw provides that in a prosecution for a violation of the Bylaw, evidence that two (2) or more residents occupying at least two (2) different properties are disturbed by the activity is proof that the activity has unreasonably disturbed the peace of the neighbourhood.

Exemptions

The draft Bylaw provides for a number of exemptions including disturbances caused by emergency vehicles as well as business activity, recreation activities and community events that are taking place in a manner that is appropriate to the nature of the business enterprise, activity or event.

The draft Bylaw defines "appropriate" to mean being reasonable in the circumstances taking into account the intensity, frequency, duration and timing of the activity.

Penalty

Any person who is convicted of an offence under the Bylaw would be subject to a penalty ranging from $295 (for the first offence) to $467.50 (for a second offence) and $812 (for a third or subsequent offence) and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 60 days.

Summary Offence Ticket

The draft Bylaw also provides for the designation of the Bylaw under the Summary Offences Ticket Regulations to permit the use of Summary Offence Tickets (SOTs) for prosecuting offences which can permit for automatic convictions.

Report Preparation	
Department	Administration
Report Prepared by	Tom MacEwan, CAO
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

By-law Details	
Name	Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law
Number	XXX
Legislative Authority	Section 172(1)(a) and (d) of the **Municipal Government Act**
Effective Date	

Title

1 This By-Law is entitled the "Neighbourhood Nuisance By-Law".

Preamble

2 Residents of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg are encouraged to be good neighbours by exercising courtesy, consideration, and tolerance. Anyone that engages in behaviour that does not demonstrate common courtesy or consideration of others and causes a frequent or persistent annoyance to the neighbourhood may be in contravention of this By-law.

Authority

3 (1) Section 172(1)(a) of the **Municipal Government Act** empowers Municipalities to make by-laws respecting "the health, well-being, safety and protection of persons."

(2) Section 172(1)(d) of the **Municipal Government Act** empowers Municipalities to make by-laws respecting "nuisances, activities, and things that, in the opinion of Council, may be or may cause nuisances."

Definitions

4 (1) In this By-law, the following means:

(a) **Appropriate** means as being reasonable in the circumstances taking into account the intensity, frequency, duration, and timing of the activity;

(b) **Council** means the Council for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg;

(c) **Municipality** means the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg;

(d) **Neighborhood** means in the same area or nearby including but not limited to the area within sight and/or sound of the subject property and/or the activity.

Proposed

Prohibitions

5 (1) No person shall engage in activity that unreasonably disturbs the peace of the neighbourhood.

(2) Any person who engages in an activity that unreasonably disturbs the peace of the neighborhood is guilty of an offence.

(3) In a prosecution for a violation of the Bylaw, evidence that two (2) or more residents occupying at least two (2) different properties are disturbed by the activity is prima facie evidence that the activity has unreasonably disturbed the peace of the neighbourhood.

Exemptions

6 (1) This By-Law does not apply to:

(a) disturbances that may result from a response to an emergency, including the parking or standing of emergency vehicles by police, fire, or ambulance services while engaged in the discharge of their duties.

(b) businesses operating lawfully and in a manner that is appropriate to the nature of the business enterprise.

(c) recreation activity carried out lawfully and in a manner that is appropriate to the nature of the activity.

(d) community events carried out lawfully and in a manner that is appropriate to the nature of the event.

Penalty

7 (1) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this By-law may be guilty of an offence and may, on summary conviction, be liable

(a) for the first offence to a penalty of Two Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars ($295.00) and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days;

(b) for the second offence to a penalty of Four Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents ($467.50) and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days;

(c) for the third offence or any subsequent offence to a penalty of Eight Hundred

Proposed

Twelve Dollars ($812.00) and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days.

Summary Offence Ticket

8 Municipal Staff shall apply to the Governor in Council pursuant to the **Summary Proceedings Act**, RSNS 1989, c. 450 as amended, to have the offences under this By-law designated by the Summary Offences Ticket Regulations to permit the use of Summary Offence Tickets for prosecuting such offences in appropriate circumstances.

By-law Adoption	
Effective date of original by-law	
Date of first reading	
Date of advertisement of notice of intent to consider	
Date of second reading	
Date of advertisement of passage of by-law Effective date of the by-law unless otherwise specified in the text of this by-law.	
Date of mailing a certified copy of by-law to Minister	
Date of Ministerial Approval	
I certify that this "Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law" was adopted by Municipal Council and published as indicated above.	
Signature of Municipal Clerk	**Date**

Version	Amendment Description	Approval Date
Original	Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law	
By-law # & suffix	<<short description of amendments)	<<date>>

All Staff Survey results

April 2024

1

Annual Staff Survey

- **Employee Engagement Committee administers survey each year**
- **Similar questions year over year to track changes (3rd year)**
- **Provided to all staff and covers communication, satisfaction etc.**

- **Statements about a quality of workplace,**
  - staff asked to rate agreement, E.g.:
  - "I feel respected by my team"

2

How the Responses are Graded

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Administration Department

3

Results

4

2023 Survey

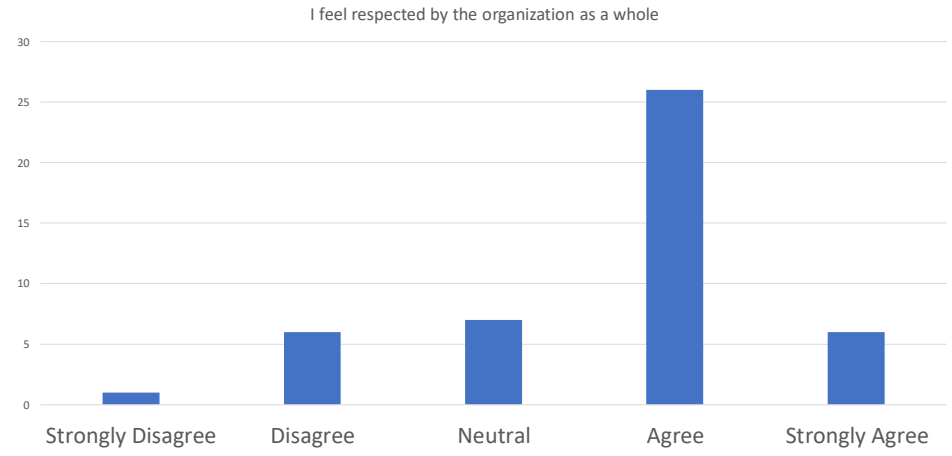
- **46 responses to survey**
- **Slight reduction in scoring from 2022,**
  - Majority of scores show improvement over 2021
- **No results in red zone.**
  - **No positive statements where the majority of staff disagreed**

5

New in 2023: I receive sufficient recognition or praise for doing good work – 3.6

6

New in 2023: I feel respected by the organization as a whole – 3.6



7

Highest scoring questions

- **I enjoy my job (4.2)**
- **I am proud to work for MODL (4.1)**
- **I feel respected by my team (4.1)**

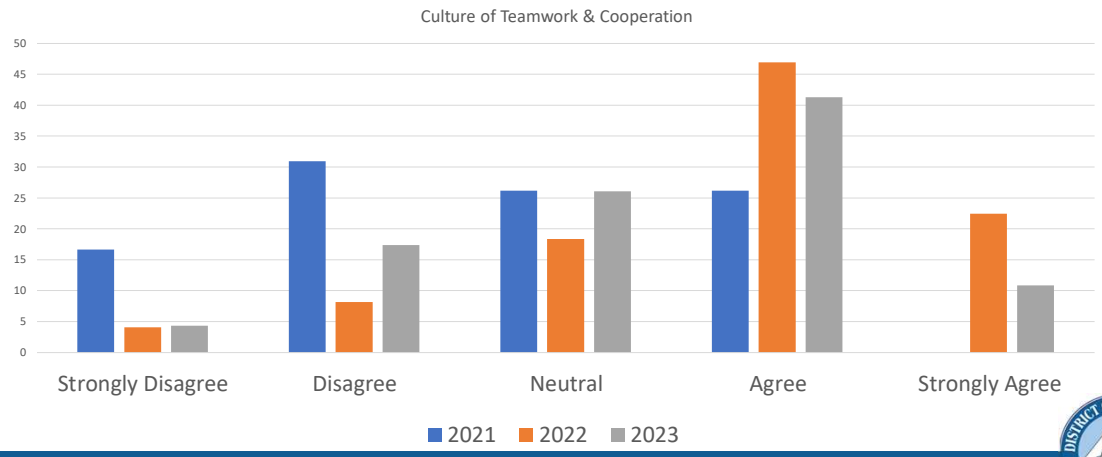
8

Lowest Scores:

- **Culture of Teamwork and Cooperation – 3.4**
- **Rules are Followed – 3.3**
- **SMT Communicates Vision – 3.3**
- **Communication in MODL – 3.3**

9

MODL has a culture of Teamwork and Cooperation – 3.4



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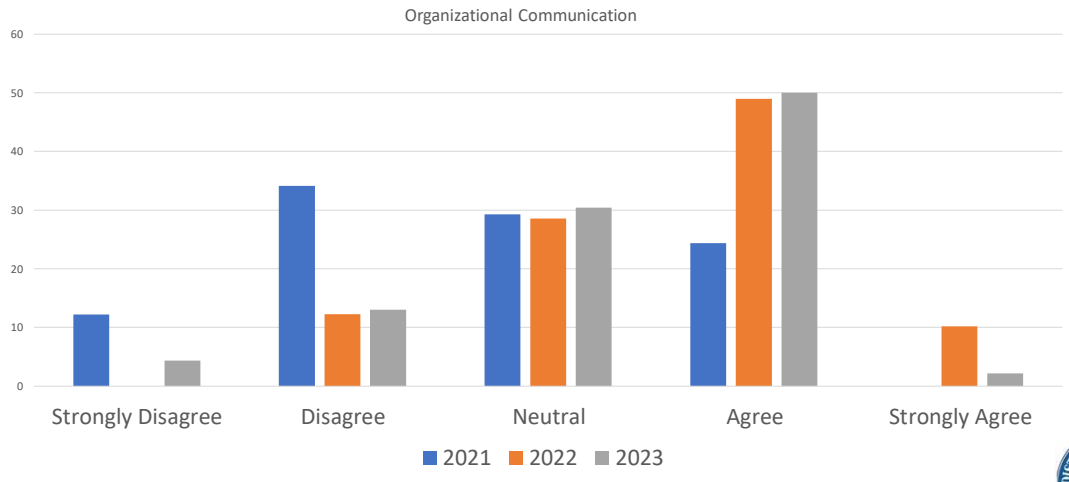
Satisfied with Communication in the Organization – 3.3



11

Overall Summary

In 2022 we ranked at:

3.9

And for 2023 we're at:

3.7

All Staff Survey Analysis	2021	2022	2023	22 to 23 change
Praise/Recognition in past 3 months	3.8	3.9	3.7	-0.2
NEW! Sufficient praise/recognition for good work	-	-	3.6	-
Encouraged Development	3.6	3.8	3.8	No change
Role is clear	3.7	4.0	3.9	-0.1
Info for my work	3.7	3.9	3.8	-0.1
Input in operational issues	3.2	3.7	3.5	-0.2
I enjoy my job	3.9	4.3	4.2	-0.1
I am proud to work for MODL	3.7	4.3	4.1	-0.2
I feel respected by my team	3.5	4.1	4.1	No change
NEW! Respected by MODL Leadership team	-	-	3.7	-
NEW! Respected by Organization as a whole	-	-	3.6	-
Culture of teamwork & cooperation	2.6	3.8	3.4	-0.4
Rules are followed	3.3	3.7	3.3	-0.4
SMT communicate vision	2.9	3.5	3.3	-0.2
Communication in Department	3.2	3.7	3.7	No change
Communication in MODL	2.7	3.6	3.3	-0.3
My opinion counts	-	3.9	3.8	-0.1
Manager checks in on me	-	3.7	3.6	-0.1
OVERALL AVERAGE	**3.4**	**3.9**	**3.7**	**-0.2**

12

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: **Policy & Strategy Committee**

Submitted by: **Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism**

Date: **April 16, 2024**

Re: **Food Vibes Riverport – Funding and Partnership Request**

Recommendation

That the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg approve $5,000 from the annual operating grant fund and $5,000 from the Recreation, Parks and Tourism operating budget to financially support and collaborate with Food Vibes Riverport on an innovative pilot project aimed to enhance community leadership, volunteerism and social innovation.

Executive summary

At the March 5, 2024, Finance meeting Dr. Marc Langlois, founder of Food Vibes Riverport made a presentation to the committee seeking a partnership with the Municipality on a pilot project with the ultimate outcome being enhancing community leadership, volunteerism, and social innovation. Dr. Langlois requested that MODL collaborate on the pilot so we could learn together with the goal of this pilot possibly being replicated in other communities across the Municipality. On that note, the financial request of $17,900 was to fund a part-time Volunteer Support Manager for 8 hours a week for 8 months; and fund a Partnership and Evaluation Manager for 12 hours a week for 8 months.

Dr. Langlois has over 40 years of field work which involves being a social entrepreneur, an Executive Director, educator, youth worker, community researcher, innovator, and a developmental evaluator. The non-profit organization Food Vibes was created out of his experience and research as an evidence-based approach to effective community development.

Dr. Langlois stated in his presentation that in his conversations with a number of volunteer groups, a consistent message came through that volunteers would like administrative support for their organizations such as recruiting new volunteers, organizing online, seeking out insurance and applying for funding, so they could spend their volunteer time on doing what they love doing – which is volunteering

their time to provide needed services to the community and building stronger and more resilient communities. This statement is reenforced by the Project Volunteer surveys administered by the six municipal units in Lunenburg and Queens counties. For those organizations that responded in MODL providing Board member support was the third ranked workshop listed just behind volunteer recruitment and funding.

Volunteer recruitment and Board support are very much reflective of the core values of Food Vibes. Their core values are:

1. Inclusivity
2. Nourishing communities
3. Sustainable environment
4. People centric approach
5. The Power of Collaboration

To quote Dr. Langlois "We believe that building stronger community connections and volunteer spirit is the wisest investment to catalyzing a vibrant sustainable future."

Food Vibes provides wraparound support for community volunteers. They host local residents looking for good ways to get involved in their community. They gather individual residents and representatives of local community groups around food to connect, inspire and organize projects together. Within their means they provide whatever support helps a community project succeed. Practically speaking, they coach, share resources, create social media, evaluate, facilitate, help with grant applications or whatever else is called for.

Food Vibes believes, and compelling evidence supports, that every community has a deeper pool of hidden gifts ready to be offered, than what is currently being tapped. They view the volunteer as the customer and ask the 'What would be life giving for you?" They are creating welcoming cultures of engagement. They listen, learn about their ideas and needs, and adapt to support their work. The response has been impressive. The numbers and frequency of those they are attracting and supporting is growing quickly. That growth will soon be beyond their capacity to support.

Within a minimal budget and significant volunteer hours over the last twenty-months Food Vibes has achieved a number of outcomes which include:

1. Asset mapping - 12 months of mapping and learning about the local community activity and leadership.
2. Supporting 4 Board chairpersons during organizational transitions.
3. Recruited 5 new Board and Advisory members for community organizations.
4. Coaching and supporting 5 residents to launch new community projects.
5. Repurposed 3 public spaces at the Riverport Community Centre.
6. 35 new volunteer engagements.
7. 9 community groups meeting together to create a collective agenda.
8. Initiating growing public use of the commercial kitchen in the community centre.
9. Published 10 short videos to celebrate local volunteerism.

10. Launched a Community Pantry at the community centre, soon including a new food bank service.
11. Support for the launching of a monthly free big screen movie night at Trinity United Hall.
12. Curating a conservation-oriented art show with locally produced art.
13. Provided free food service at 12 community events.

Some of the goals of Food Vibes for 2024 are:

1. To host a weekly drop-in day at the Riverport Community Centre to gather around food to provide a welcoming and practical time for volunteer support.
2. Provide volunteer management for 5+ community groups.
3. Provide support for new resident led community initiatives.
4. Share valuable lessons learned with sponsors and partners (which would include MODL).
5. Establish community collective goals.
6. Establish financial security for Food Vibes backbone services for Riverport area.
7. Animate the community centre with resident led activity.

Food Vibes have engaged with other partners and investors such as the Founders themselves investing $40,000 since 2017 and has been and continues to work with volunteer organizations and residents as they believe community building has the power to change the world!; $52,000 from NS donors since 2019; $5,400 from the Lunenburg County Community Fund and the donation of 2,700+ volunteer hours from 2021 and continues to work with volunteer organizations and residents as they are witnessing the outcomes and impact of growing community involvement. Other request is process include the Rural Communities Foundations of Nova Scotia, Volunteer Canada and individual donors.

The work of Food Vibes, their core values and their vision of “vibrant communities where intergenerational relationships thrive” marry well with Project Volunteer – Putting the buzz back into volunteering! Project Volunteer was born as a result of MODL staff recognizing that there was a decrease in the number of volunteers being nominated to be recognized at the Provincial and Municipal volunteer recognition events and the startling statistic outlining that since COVID-19 Nova Scotia has lost 37,000 volunteers, as many did not return to volunteering after the pandemic. Volunteers are truly the heart of a community – so with a rising decline in volunteers – it makes one stop and ask what impact is this having on our communities?

In February 2000 an article was released by Dr. Ronald Colman, of GPI Atlantic titled “Measuring Sustainable Development, The Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index, The Economic Value of Civic and Voluntary Work in Canada and Nova Scotia” which outlines the need to appropriately measure the value that volunteers bring to our economy and how they contribute to a country’s well-being and prosperity. In this article Dr. Colman states “Volunteers contribute directly to our well-being, -- in fact, that’s why they do what they do, -- but their contributions is completely ignored in our measures of progress because it’s not paid. In the Genuine Progress Index, we do

measure and count the economic value of voluntary work as a way of drawing attention to this tremendous community asset that's invisible in the economic growth statistics normally used to assess our well-being and prosperity." He goes on to state "When we don't count voluntary work, it doesn't get attention or priority in the policy arena." He also states, "we need to support our volunteers more and give them the resources they need to do their work properly." This is what Food Vibes is proposing to provide more time and tools for volunteers to do their work with more enjoyment and impact. Dr. Colman goes on to state, "If voluntary services disappeared either our standard of living and quality of life would decline dramatically, or the services would have to be replaced for pay."

A statement that Dr. Colman made in this article should be startling which was "Voluntary work declined by 8.7% in the 1990s and no one blinked. If paid work and GDP dropped by 8.7%, we'd have a crisis and a national emergency." With the significant decline in volunteerism since COVID-19 it would be an educated guess that the state of volunteerism may be in a national emergency. Putting the buzz back into volunteering is crucial to our community's well-being. The pilot Food Vibes is proposing is aiming to do just that by engaging residents and asking them "What would be life giving for you?" Working besides Food Vibes on the pilot and looking at offering workshops and a Volunteer expo through Project Volunteer, are projects looking at enhancing the volunteer experience, and tapping into people's talents.

Food Vibes has been in the community of Riverport since 2017 and has been and continuous to work with volunteer organizations and residents as they believe community building has the power to change the world! The following are some quotes from those impacted by Community Vibes work in the Riverport area:

"It's a pleasure working with you Marc. I am very excited about the dance we are organizing. I can really feel the energy. Your support has made a lot of difference for me." Kevin Creaser, Local resident and community organizer.

"I don't think we would be at this wonderful place in our development without the help you have provided." Janet Peace, Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy, Chair.

"Excellent! I think it helped a lot to get the word out as a group (Stuff the Truck Campaign!). Please make sure to pass along our thanks for the teamwork. It is much appreciated." Candice, Deputy Fire Chief and part of the emerging collective.

"We see some important elements of this work that might help inform our work developing leaders and fostering the volunteer sector." Elspeth McLean-Wile, Chairperson, Lunenburg County Community Fund.

"Food Vibes has been a catalyst for change in how we think about volunteering and community-wide co-operation and organization." Gabe Gusmini Chair (now past Chair) of the Riverport Community Centre.

By collaborating together, sharing resources and learning together we are more likely to realize the return (impact) of our investments which Dr. Langlois outlined in his presentation:

1. Community connections have significantly increased.
2. Volunteerism numbers, retention and support significantly increased.
3. Decreased social isolation.
4. Increased food security and food literacy.
5. Collective community vision building.
6. New resident-led community enterprises.
7. In the case of Riverport area, the community centre activity significantly increased.

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg already supports a community development model by supporting community groups through grants, board development, offering training and workshops, developing strategic plans with community groups, and facilitating sessions to help community groups become stronger. Community groups need both financial and volunteer sustainability. Working with, investing in, and learning from Food Vibes on this pilot may enhance the organizations in the Riverport community. This model will be evaluated to determine what parts of the pilot have been successful and to look at ways to transfer this knowledge into other communities to build up volunteerism in MODL.

Discussion

The proposal put forth by Food Vibes is to provide administrative support to volunteer organizations in the Riverport area. It is recommended by staff to allocate $5,000 from the annual operating grant fund and $5,000 from Recreation, Parks and Tourism 2024-2025 budget. This would allocate $10,000 towards the pilot, not the $17,900 as requested. The $10,000 being recommended is achievable within the department's budget. Recreation staff would work with Food Vibes to source the remaining $7,900 requested. Staff believes this pilot supports the goals and objectives of Project Volunteer and aligns with MODL's mandate of community development, being sustainable community builders and collaborative engagers. The funds being sought only represent a portion of the support community groups have and will continue to receive from Food Vibes. The founder and others have secured support through grants and donations. Dr. Langlois has a passion for community development which is evident in his own volunteer work in retirement.

Budget implications

The amount being recommended is achievable within the 2024-2025 Recreation, Parks and Tourism budget, if approved.

Strategic plan

The Vision of the Municipality is "The breathtaking, natural beauty of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg is home to thriving communities with unique cultural identities. Growth centres support our diversified economies, driven by our residents' passion for the place they call home.

With our strong economy, we can live, work and raise families here. We are a destination for visitors, attracted to our vibrant parks, beaches, and hiking trails. As leaders in sustainability, we passionately protect our natural environment."

We are: ***Wise Financial Managers***
Strategic Planners
Sustainable Community Builders
Collaborative Engagers

The proposed pilot aligns with the Municipality's vision as volunteers contribute to thriving communities, helps to build a strong economy and helps to create places we can live, work and raise families. This pilot also reenforces that we are wise financial managers, strategic planner, sustainable community builders and collaborative engagers.

Work Plan

Staff would continue to support this group as they would any other community group.

Alternatives

1. To not financially support Food Vibes on the proposed pilot.
2. To financially support Food Vibes on the proposed pilot providing a higher amount of funding than being recommended by staff.
3. To financially support Food Vibes on the proposed pilot at a lesser amount of funding than being recommended by staff.

Conclusion

Supporting volunteer organizations is and continues to be part of the Municipality's mandate. Investing in the proposed pilot presented by Food Vibes could be a model that is used in other communities helping to enhance volunteerism and the volunteer experience in MODL.

Report Preparation	
Department	Recreation, Parks, & Tourism
Report Prepared by	Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	

Request for Agenda Items under Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters

TO: Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Leitha Haysom

DATE: April 10th

1. Agenda Item

Policy on Financial Donations

2. On what agenda do you want the item placed?

Next available

3. Do you have written material to circulate with the agenda? Yes ☐ No ☑

If you do, please attach it to this form. If you do not, please explain.

Given the last meeting requst to make a $10k donation to the Canadian Red Cross for aid and releif in Palestine, based on a similar request and donation being made to aid and relief in Ukraine, I belive MODL needs a policy on aid donation requests.

4. What is its relevance to Council or the committee?

A policy on aid requests will give clear direction to council about monetary contributions requested from the public for other areas of the world and for the country.

5. What outcome(s) are you seeking?

I am requesting a clear policy that states that MODL does not give financial aid requests to war or disaster events in order to treat all applicants equally. If our position is that there are aid groups within MODL who need help to support residents, with food, shelter and other financial supports and they should have priority. If we are going to pick and choose which groups are most deserving, based on politics, location or other determinants, my hope is that we remove financial donations.

MacBook-Air-3.local Digitally signed by MacBook-Air-3.local Date: 2024.04.10 11:54:32 -03'00'

Councillor's Signature

April 10 2024

Date

Approval for agenda: Yes ☐ No ☐

Reason for Denial:

Mayor or Chair of Committee

Date