

Friends of Fintry funding request information

Regional District of Central Okanagan Board Meeting

February 2, 2022

1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4
rdco.com



Purpose of the Report

- Provide information in response to Oct 13th RDCO Board resolution
 - Friends of Fintry provide additional information regarding their efforts/experience to secure funding from the Province of BC.
 - Staff investigate and provide additional information regarding how similar “Friends of” other Provincial park organizations secure operational funding.
 - Staff explore options with the Okanagan Nation for partnerships and funding for the ongoing support of the Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society.

RDCO funding support to Fintry Provincial Park and Friends of Fintry Society

- Fintry Provincial Park was purchased by the Province of BC in 1995 for \$7,680,000, with \$2,000,000 contributed from the Regional District of Central Okanagan.
- The Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society have received over \$500,000 in annual funding support over the past 15 years.

RDCO Board resolution – Sept. 10, 2020

“THAT the Regional Board approves ending the annual funding of \$39,000 to the Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society in 2022;

AND FURTHER THAT the end in funding be phased: \$26,000 in 2021 and \$13,000 in 2022.”

Friends of Fintry additional information

- Friends of Fintry provided additional information identifying other possible funding sources as Canada Summer Jobs and BC Gaming grant.
- Friends of Fintry are concerned the lack of expenses for 2023 may impact their applications to the above-mentioned funding sources.
- Friends of Fintry also provided their account of the history of the acquisition of Fintry Provincial Park from 1995.

Funding options through BC Parks

- BC Parks has an established volunteer program.
- Fifteen (15) groups volunteer with BC Parks in the Okanagan/Kootenay region.
- Volunteer groups enter a Partnership Agreement with BC Parks.
- BC Parks has three funding opportunities for volunteer groups:
 - Park Enhancement Fund
 - BC Parks License Plate program
 - Community Recreation Permit

Partnership and Funding options with the Okanagan Nation

- Through consultation with our Indigenous Advisor should the Friends of Fintry approach Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) for funding it should be done directly with that Nation with no involvement of the RDCO, and only if there is already an established relationship/partnership between the Friends of Fintry and Okanagan Indian Band.

Recommendation

All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority (LGA s.208)

THAT the Regional Board receive the supplemental report from the Manager, Park Services regarding the funding request from the Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society, dated February 2, 2023, for information;

AND THAT the Regional Board deny the request to reinstate a \$40,000 annual operating grant for the Friends of Fintry Provincial Park Society.