

Edmonton and Area Land Trust – Operational Funding

Recommendation:

That the November 21, 2006 report, Edmonton and Area Land Trust – Operational Funding be received for information.

Report Summary

- This report provides information regarding a request by the Edmonton and Area Land Trust for operational funding

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the June 20-21, 2006 Council meeting the following motion was passed:

- That Administration include a budget request (for up to \$2.5 million as proposed in the Edmonton Land Trust document) for seed endowment funding for the Edmonton Land Trust by the City of Edmonton for consideration by Council in its 2007 budget deliberations.

Report

- This report addresses the third recommendation regarding a budget request for funding for the Edmonton Land Trust. Motions 1 and 2 were addressed in a report to Transportation and Public Works Committee on November 21, 2006.
- At the June 13, 2006 TPW Committee, a partnership group of five partners (Edmonton Community Foundation, Urban Development Institute, Legacy Lands Conservation Society, Land Stewardship of Canada, and Edmonton Nature Club) made a presentation to the committee informing them of their intention form a Part 9 Company to

operate as a land trust dedicated to conserving natural area systems and cultural heritage landscapes.

- At the June 13, 2006 TPW Committee meeting, the five partner presented a partnership model for the creation of a land trust, and invited the City of Edmonton to become one of the founding members. TPW Committee passed a motion that the City would become one of six partners. This decision was subsequently ratified by Council on June 20-21, 2006.
- The five partners made a request to TPW Committee for a one-time grant of \$2.5 million to form part of an endowment for operational requirements of the fledgling land trust. Their business plan, presented to TPW Committee on November 21, 2006 includes a goal of establishing an endowment of \$5.5 million to provide core operational requirements of \$275,000 per year.
- Non-profit organizations find that donations for operational expenses are rare; however, without sufficient operational funding, it is not possible to undertake adequately the mission of the organization.
- A service package for the 2007 budget has been prepared by Administration for the operational funding request; however, Administration did not include this service package in the recommended 2007 City budget for the following reasons:
 - The land trust was not incorporated at the time of the budget preparation;
 - Funding in support of natural areas was recommended in order to

complete the conservation strategy
and other work required for natural
areas conservation in the City.