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Corporate Plan Output: Community Advocacy: 6.1 text.47	

The purpose of this report is to request funding support from the Board for the 1999 Community Pride Garden Awards.

Background

For a number of years the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board has sponsored the Community Pride Garden Awards in partnership with the Christchurch Beautifying Association. This award acknowledges resident's personal contribution towards maintaining Christchurch as the 'Garden City of the World'.

This non-competition-based award has proved very successful in encouraging the home gardener to make an extra effort in their garden. The Christchurch Beautifying Association has twelve key members who give their time voluntarily to compile lists of deserving recipients. Judging takes into account the socio-economic situation, local climate, soil factors and general standard across each ward area.

Last year the Christchurch Beautifying Association identified 200 gardens within the Riccarton and Wigram Wards worthy of recognition. These residents received a certificate and letter of thanks from the Board Chairperson to acknowledge their efforts.

At a debriefing meeting of Christchurch Beautifying Association and Council representatives it was discussed how well the awards were received last year. Members of the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board discussed how they had acknowledged the recipients in their Ward areas through presentation of the certificates at morning and afternoon tea functions. Members of the Beautifying Association suggested that all Boards be encouraged to provide presentations similar to those hosted by the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board.

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board may wish to also extend their congratulations to recipients of Community Pride Garden Awards by hosting functions to present the certificates during late March, early April 1999. Riccarton House would be the ideal venue for such an event. Estimating that approximately 200 recipients are likely this year, it would be advisable to host two functions (one morning and one afternoon tea function). This would enable smooth facilitation of the large number of people to be catered for. Costs to provide two presentation functions of certificates plus catering for 200 people with morning or afternoon teas at Riccarton House are \$2,000.

Conclusion

The Community Pride Garden Awards are an effective way of recognising extra effort being made by residents towards maintaining Christchurch as the 'Garden City of the World'. The Board's initiative to formally recognise recipients at morning or afternoon tea functions was received very favourably last year. This is an excellent opportunity for Board members to meet with residents within their wards who have contributed to the Garden City image.

The Community Secretary reports that the balance of discretionary funds is only \$1,400. To meet this request the Board could, by resolution, reallocate monies into the 1999/2000 year in respect of the "Native Trees Please" proposal (which was part of the Year 2000 presentation made last year to the Board) as the funds will not be required until the 1999/2000 year.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Community Board rescind its resolution on the "Native Trees Please" funding of \$5,000 and that it be committed into 1999/2000.
 2. That the Board allocates \$2,000.00 from its 1998/99 Discretionary Funds in support of the 1999 Community Pride Garden Awards.
 3. That the Board nominates two members from each ward to present certificates at each presentation ceremony

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted.