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TAMRMS#: B06

8.2

St. Albert Poet Laureate Appointment

Presented by: Kathleen Bell, Community Cultural Coordinator and Geoff Manderscheid, St. Albert Public Library

RECOMMENDED MOTION

That Lauren Seal be named St. Albert's Poet Laureate for a two-year term commencing April 2022 and ending April 2024.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

In accordance with City Policy C-CAO-24, St. Albert Poet Laureate, this report provides the recommendation from the Poet Laureate selection panel, as appointed per the CEO of the St. Albert Public Library, per Council motion CB-22-008, for the 2022/2023 St. Albert Poet Laureate.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION

On February 18, 2020 Council passed the following motion:

CB-20-017 That the St. Albert Poet Laureate Policy be adopted as presented.

The Policy is attached for information.

On February 22, 2022 Council Passed the following motion:

CB-22-008 That the task of reviewing applications and recommending a person for appointment by Council as Poet Laureate for St. Albert is assigned to an independent Poet Laureate committee or panel appointed by the CEO of the St. Albert Public Library which shall include a person who is also a member of the Arts Development Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

In April, a Poet Laureate selection panel was convened by the St. Albert Public Library.

The panel was made up of three professionals with arts backgrounds and no conflicts of interest with the nominees.

The selection panel consisted of the following members:

- one (1) Arts Development Advisory Committee member.
- one (1) member of St. Albert Public Library staff
- one (1) representative from the literary community (poets and writers)

The selection panel was organized and monitored by a St. Albert Public Library representative.

Nominees were assessed on the following criteria:

1. Clear and innovative ideas regarding the vision for the position of Poet Laureate
2. Demonstrated an ability to engage and inspire the St. Albert community
3. Ease and skill at presenting and performing work to the public
4. A body of literary work of superior artistic merit

12 applications were received in 2022.

The selection panel unanimously recommends that the following person be named the St. Albert Poet Laureate for a two-year term commencing April 2022 and ending April 2024:

Lauren Seal

Community Services and St. Albert Public Library will provide the name of the nominee at the April 11, 2022 CLSC meeting.

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS OR ENGAGEMENT

Distributed information to the public via:

- City Lights
- St. Albert Public Library Website
- Social media platforms
- Direct communication with literary and arts organizations

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

Financial:

The Poet Laureate will receive funding in April of 2022 and April of 2023 (\$1000 has been allocated for 2022). These funds will come from the existing Community Services operating budget.

Legal / Risk:

None at this time

Program or Service:

Existing program that supports the development of a robust cultural and literary community in St. Albert.

Organizational:

None at this time

ALTERNATIVES AND IMPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

If Council does not wish to support the recommendation, the following alternatives could be considered:

Alternative 1: Council may choose not to approve the recommendations and refer back to the selection panel for further review and consideration.

Report Date: April 11, 2022

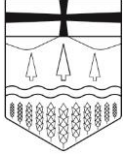
Author: Kathleen Bell

Department: Community Services

Director: Elizabeth Wilkie

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (Interim): Diane Enger

Chief Administrative Officer (Interim): Kerry Hilts



CITY OF ST. ALBERT CITY COUNCIL POLICY

NUMBER	TITLE	ORIGINAL APPROVAL DATE	DATE LAST REVISED
C-CAO-24	St. Albert Poet Laureate	CB-20-017 – February 18, 2020	

Purpose

To support development of a robust cultural and literary community in St. Albert by establishing the position of Poet Laureate.

Policy Statement

In collaboration with the St. Albert Public Library, the municipal council of the City of St. Albert champions literary and cultural development in our community by:

- (a) creating the role of Poet Laureate for the community;
- (b) setting expectations for the role of Poet Laureate;
- (c) prescribing a process for selection of a candidate for appointment as Poet Laureate, once every two years;
- (d) appointing a new Poet Laureate at two-year intervals; and
- (e) considering approval of a yearly budget to support the Poet Laureate program.

Responsibilities

1. Council adopts the Poet Laureate Policy, appoints a person once every two years to the position of Poet Laureate, and in its discretion approves an amount within the City's annual operating budget to support the Poet Laureate program.
2. The CAO, working with the Board and Administration of the St. Albert Public Library, facilitates delivery of the Poet Laureate program within the approved budget.

Service Standards / Expectations

1. Recruitment for a new Poet Laureate shall commence in February, every other year commencing in 2020.
2. Council shall appoint an *ad hoc* committee to review applications and recommend a person for appointment by Council as Poet Laureate, or shall assign those tasks to an existing committee, board or agency.
3. Applicants for the role of Poet Laureate will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - a. Current residence in St. Albert or a significant connection to St. Albert;
 - b. 16 years of age or older;
 - c. A body of literary work of superior artistic merit;
 - d. Preference given to applicants who have not previously served as Poet Laureate for St. Albert.
4. A new Poet Laureate shall be appointed by Council and proclaimed by the Mayor in April (National Poetry Month), every other year commencing in April 2020.
5. The Poet Laureate shall serve a two-year term as a literary and cultural ambassador of the City of St. Albert. Annually the incumbent shall:
 - a. produce at least one original literary work that reflects and represents culture, ideas, and issues of importance to the people of St. Albert and the community abroad;
 - b. perform a minimum of three public events in the City of St. Albert, featuring the Poet Laureate's own literary work and/or the work of other writers;
 - c. deliver a program for the St. Albert Public Library.
6. This St. Albert Poet Laureate Policy shall be implemented in collaboration with the St. Albert Public Library.

DATE REVIEWED	NEXT REVIEW DATE	REVISIONS
	2024 - Community Services	