TO: Mayor Kwarsick and Council Members Neff, Seligson, Sundberg, Allen, Allderdice
FROM: Shirley Owen – Chair, Library Board
DATE: February 29, 2012
RE: AWC Scholarship Report and Recommendation

Last December the City Council passed a resolution that the City would sponsor a graduating high school senior to compete for one of four state-wide $1,000 scholarships offered through a new program by the AWC’s Center for Quality Communities. (Details of the program were transmitted by Kathleen Landel via the meeting packet for December 19, 2011.) The Library Board agreed to handle the candidate search on behalf on the City. The Board was joined by the Friends of the Library, who in addition offered a $500 scholarship to the student chosen to be Langley’s sponsored candidate.

During December and early January, informational materials were sent out to all public and private schools on South Whidbey and to print and on-line media. In early February, emails and some personal school visits gave reminders of the upcoming February 23 deadline. A selection committee was recruited. Thirteen applications were received. Copies of the applications were immediately distributed to the selection committee members for study and for evaluation according to criteria supplied by AWC (copy attached). The committee met on February 25 to discuss the applications individually and to compare and rank them. After careful evaluation and discussion, the committee was able to arrive at a consensus.

The committee’s statement of recommendation is attached for your review. On behalf of the committee I will present the recommended candidate, Robert (“Will”) Mellish, at the March 5 Council meeting. We ask that you approve our selected student as Langley’s sponsored candidate for a scholarship. With your approval, we will forward the statement of recommendation, along with the candidate’s original application, under a cover letter signed by the Mayor. The deadline for this mailing is March 16, 2012.

This project was a pleasure to undertake. It revealed what a wealth of talent, enthusiasm and leadership our young people have to offer and how extensively they participate in the volunteer effort that is a characteristic of the South Whidbey community.

Attachments:
(1) AWC Judging Criteria
(2) Recommendation of Selection Committee
AWC Center for Quality Communities

AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship

Ranking Sheet

Student name: ____________________________

City: ____________________________

Student Eligibility
Please make sure student meets the following eligibility requirements.

• Involved (or was involved) with a city government or community/school leadership activity;

• Eligible to graduate from high school, complete home school or receive a GED in spring/summer 2012;

• A Washington state resident; and

• Plans to continue education in the 2012-2013 academic year at an accredited college, community college or trade school on a half-time or more basis.

Applicant Packet
Please make sure the applicant's packet contains the following materials.

• Completed application form

• One letter of recommendation from a non-relative (such as a community leader, high school teacher, administrator or counselor)

• An official and recent high school transcript, proof of GED or home school progress

• Personal essay

Applicant Ranking –

45 total points available

1. Leadership Activities and Recognition:
15 points maximum _______
Evaluate the quantity and quality of activities including student and school organizations, athletics, band, and other activities that require leadership skills. Has the student been awarded with any special recognition or awards that demonstrate this involvement?

2. Essay:
20 points maximum _______
Is the essay well written, concise and addresses the leadership question? Does it provide a depth of understanding about the applicant's role and involvement? Does the essay portray the attributes of an exceptional current and future leader?

3. Reference:
5 points maximum _______
Review the reference for depth of content and examples. Does the applicant have an outstanding reference with specific examples, an outstanding reference with general examples or a good reference?

4. Bonus points:
5 points maximum _______
Are there other compelling circumstances not included in the ranking that makes this applicant warrant additional points?

Please note:

Total Points _______
Comments:
RECOMMENDATION OF AWC SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE
February 19, 2012

The Selection Committee recommends that ROBERT ("WILL") MELLISH be sponsored by the City of Langley to compete for a state-wide scholarship offered by the Association of Washington Cities’ Center for Quality Communities. We believe he meets or exceeds all AWC criteria.

Robert’s interests and accomplishments are diverse. For all four years of high school he has been an outstanding scholar and a member of Honor Society, and a leader and officer in student government. He has captained teams in Knowledge Bowl and Hi-Q competitions. While he intends to study electrical engineering, he has performed in Shakespeare and Children’s Theatre productions, played in his school’s Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble; run cross country, played soccer and coached and refereed youth soccer teams; and he has volunteered in two community help organizations. All this, while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Since being honored in 2008 with the Langley Middle School Leadership Award, he has been Kiwanis’ Student of the Quarter and nominee for Washington State Scholar and for Washington State Principals Leadership Award. He has become President of South Whidbey High School’s Associated Student Body and an Eagle Scout.

His service project for Eagle Scout qualification – building a quarter mile of trail in a local state park – was the focus of his application essay. In it, he shows a remarkable realization of what it takes to lead a community service project: envisioning, planning, acquiring equipment and materials, recruiting and motivating and organizing workers, and celebrating the work and fellowship. He shows extraordinary appreciation of the work and contribution of others, recognizing the value of the experience for himself, and the gratification of leaving a product of value to the community.

For the required recommendation he could have asked a teacher or mentor to attest to his outstanding personal achievements or leadership. Instead he asked for a recommendation from a community help organization where he has volunteered. That recommendation attests to his willingness to work at any and all tasks in the service of his fellows.

We, the Selection Committee, unanimously recommend this candidate to the City for sponsorship to a state-wide AWC scholarship on the ample grounds of his leadership, personal achievements and sense of community.

Selection Committee:
Shirley Owen – Chair, Langley Library Board
Carol Ryan – Member and Past President, Friends of the Langley Library
Jean Shaw – Board Member and Secretary, South Whidbey Schools Foundation
Tucker Stevens – President, Langley Community Club
James Tully (Committee Chair) – Member and Past Chair, Langley Library Board