

March 14, 2019

To: Members
Community and Protective Services Committee

Re: Additional Funding for Downtown Welcome Services Pavilion

RECOMMENDATION

1. That an increase in the City of Regina's contribution to the Welcome Services Pavilion of \$25,000 from the Downtown Deferred Revenue Account be approved.
2. That the Executive Director of City Planning & Community Development be authorized to negotiate and approve an addendum to the terms of the Construction and Operating Agreement for the increase in funding.
3. That the City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary addendum to the agreement upon review and approval by the City Solicitor.
4. That this report be forwarded to the March 25, 2019 meeting of City Council for approval.

CONCLUSION

In 2017, Council agreed to contribute funding towards the Regina Downtown Business Improvement District's (RDBID) construction of the welcome services pavilion (see Appendix A). The pavilion supports the vision and principles of the Regina Downtown Neighbourhood Plan as well as the objectives of the Cultural Plan. The addition of the welcome services pavilion will enhance RDBID's work by providing a home base for the Info On The Go program. This program provides information to residents and visitors on downtown activities, as well as lending program supplies, such as games and sporting equipment. This initiative will further enhance the vibrancy of the downtown.

Administration is recommending that the City of Regina (City) honour the intent of the original agreement which was a 50/50 City and RDBID capital funding split. This would increase the City's contribution to a total of \$175,000 to be funded from the Downtown Deferred Revenue Account.

BACKGROUND

On June 26, 2017 (CR17-62) Council approved a partnership with RDBID for the construction of the welcome services pavilion on City Square Plaza. At that time, Council approved the following:

1. That City Council authorize the Executive Director of City Services or designate to negotiate and approve the terms of a donation and lease agreement between Regina Downtown Business Improvement District (RDBID) and the City of Regina (City) for the construction by RDBID of a welcome services pavilion on City Square Plaza to be donated to the City and leased to RDBID as further detailed in this report;
2. That City Council authorize the Executive Director of City Services to negotiate and approve the terms of a donation agreement for 50 percent of construction costs up to \$150,000 from the Downtown Deferred Revenue Account;
3. That City Council authorize the Executive Director of City Services to negotiate and approve the terms of a donation and recognition agreement between the City and any donor donating over \$100,000 as further described in this report;
4. That City Council approve the assignment of naming rights for the pavilion on terms to be negotiated and approved by the Executive Director of City Services, to any donor providing greater than \$100,000 toward the project;
5. That the City Solicitor's office be instructed to prepare the agreement(s) described in this report containing the terms negotiated by the Executive Director of City Services;
6. That the City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement(s) on behalf of the City after review and approval by the City Solicitor.

DISCUSSION

In 2017, Council approved a partnership for the construction of a welcome services pavilion for City Square Plaza. The intent of the pavilion is to house the Info On The Go program, which is operated by RDBID and provides staff to interact with visitors and residents on activities in the downtown. RDBID also lends program supplies, such as games and sporting equipment, to people visiting the downtown, enhancing the vibrancy of the space. This lending program will be housed in the pavilion to provide easy access to visitors to the downtown.

Administration views the welcome services pavilion as an important addition to City Square Plaza, as it will not only support programming and activation of the Plaza, but it will also provide additional surveillance of the space.

In 2017, when Administration took the partnership report (CR17-62) to Council for consideration the construction estimate for the welcome services pavilion was \$300,000. Based on that estimate, Council agreed to contribute 50 per cent of the funding up to \$150,000. Since this time, RDBID has been seeking contributors for the remaining funding. Through a donation, RDBID was able to secure the remaining 50 per cent of the funding to allow for the pavilion to be constructed in early 2019. A tender was released in December 2018 and five bids were received. The lowest compliant bid is \$350,500, which is \$50,500 higher than anticipated.

RDBID has now asked if the City would consider increasing their contribution from the Downtown Dedicated Revenue Account by 50 per cent of the increased cost. If the original 50/50 funding split is continued, the City's contribution would increase by \$25,000 with the remaining \$25,500 being paid by RDBID.

Timing of the construction of the pavilion is important, as RDBID's intent is to have the building complete and able to serve the community in 2019. RDBID is also aiming to complete construction as soon as possible, in order to reduce potential impacts to other programs using the Plaza.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

In 2017, Council approved a \$150,000 contribution to be funded from the Downtown Dedicated Revenue Account (DDRA). Currently the balance of the DDRA is \$138,214.50. If Council approves an additional contribution to the welcome services pavilion of \$25,000, the remaining balance in the account will be \$113,214.50. Over the next five years this amount will increase to \$340,370.50 due to the remaining funds still owed from the Mosaic Tower III agreement.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

Policy and/or Strategic Implications

The addition of the welcome services pavilion on the Plaza meets the objective in the Council approved Cultural Plan to *Build Community Through Partnerships and Collaboration*, with the goal of enhancing vibrancy in the downtown.

This project also further supports the vision and principles of the Regina Downtown Neighbourhood Plan. Increased programming in the downtown is also consistent with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles; for example, there is a direct link between higher levels of activity in the downtown and citizens' perceptions of safety.

Accessibility Implications

Accessibility has been taken into account throughout the design of this facility.

COMMUNICATIONS

There are no communications considerations as part of the report.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The recommendations in this report require City Council approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Laurie Shalley".

Laurie Shalley, Director
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Diana Hawryluk".

Diana Hawryluk, Executive Director
City Planning and Development

Report prepared by:

Janine Daradich, Manager, Recreation Planning & Partnerships