

**CPS17-3 Expansion of the Victoria Park Maintenance Building
Presentation to City Council
Regina Downtown Business Improvement District Submission**

March 27, 2017

Mayor Fougere and City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you in support of CPS17-3 Expansion of the Victoria Park Maintenance Building. My name is Judith Veresuk and I am the Executive Director of the Regina Downtown Business Improvement District. On behalf of the RDBID Board of Directors, I am here to support the recommendation before you today.

Regina Downtown is a strong supporter of City Square. Since 2011, RDBID has offered a number of programs that support positive activation of the park, plaza and FW Hill Mall. Participation numbers of our programming have steadily increased since 2011. One example is Cinema Under the Stars, which went from 4,000 people attending five outdoor movies to 9,000 people attending this evening event which typically runs until midnight. Other programs include:

- Summer Concert Series
- Salsa on the Plaza
- Words in the Park
- Chess
- Yoga
- Art in the Park
- Victoria Park Skating Rink
- Exploration Days

We also partner with a number of groups and provide support their events downtown, these include:

- Saskatchewan Highland Games
- Regina Folk Fest
- Regina Farmers' Market
- Market Under the Stars
- Trifecta
- Afrofest
- National Aboriginal Day
- Circle Project
- Queen City Pride

To support both our regular programming and third party events, we have a variety of assets including:

- Racks of folding chairs
- Tables
- Adirondack chairs
- A Frame signs
- Information Kiosk
- Stanchions
- Over 100 pairs of skates
- Giant games
- Garbage and recycling bins
- Brooms, shovels and other cleaning supplies
- Sound system
- Tent
- Flags and other signage

Additionally, RDBID has grown the Clean and Safe program. Last year we collected over 600 bags of garbage, 120 needles and removed 773 graffiti tags. To support cleaning efforts we have purchased a sidewalk sweeper and plan on purchasing a utility vehicle and pressure washer to further enhance our services.

To provide these services, we require an on-site secure storage solution. In the past we have stored our assets in the Gordon Block which is no longer an option due to safety concerns with the building. Currently we use the Peterson trailer situated on the Plaza and a storage container in Victoria Park. Our current storage solution is at capacity. To grow our programs and the clean and safe initiative, the expansion of the Vic Park Maintenance Building is essential. Expanding the Maintenance building will provide a permanent solution to our storage deficiencies.

The plans before you today are a result of the collaboration between RDBID and the Community Services staff, in particular Janine Daradich. Together, we have identified a suitable location that minimizes the impact to the park. We have also incorporated a design that respects the historic nature of Victoria Park while accommodating our storage requirements.

Recognizing that we are not the only stakeholders in Victoria Park, we have had discussions with the Regina Folk Festival and Regina Farmers' Market to ensure the building footprint will not have a negative impact on either event.

The estimated cost for this project is \$75,000 which Regina Downtown is prepared to fully fund. With your approval, we hope to have the Victoria Park Maintenance Building constructed and operation for by the end of the summer 2017.

We look forward to continuing the partnership we have with the City of Regina in ensuring City Square, Victoria Park and the FW Hill Mall are vibrant, exciting and safe places for the community to gather. The expansion of the maintenance building is essential to meeting these goals.

Thank you for your consideration.