



Exhibition Place

Item No. 17

January 23, 2015

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

ACTION REQUIRED

From: Dianne Young, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **2014 Capital Works Program - Splash Pad in Centennial Square – Supplementary Report**

Summary:

At its meeting of December 1, 2014, the Board considered a report from the CEO dated November 19, 2014, entitled 2014 Capital Works Program - Splash Pad in Centennial Square, which report recommended the cancellation of the construction of a splash pad within Centennial Square as a special project celebrating the TO2015 PanAm Games. The Board referred the report back to the CEO to allow staff to meet with the CNEA representative and a number of Board members to consider how the splash pad can proceed in 2015, and to report back to the Board on the results of the meeting at the next Board meeting.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve:

- 1) Proceeding with the construction of a splash pad within Centennial Square near the vicinity of McGillivray Fountain;**
- 2) Engaging a heritage fountain repair Consultant to provide the methodology to retrofit the existing McGillivray Fountain and include this repair as part of the 2016/ 2017 Capital Works Program; and,**
- 3) Reporting to the Board as part of the 2016 Capital Program on the possible funding envelop for a new children's playground in Centennial Park.**

Financial Impact:

The total project cost of \$500,000 for the construction Splash Pad within Centennial Square under the Parks, Parking Lots and Road account was approved by the Board and City Council as part of the 2014 Capital Work Program and the costing for the engineering and construction is within this project budget.

Decision History:

The Exhibition Place 2014 – 2016 Strategic Plan had a Recognition & Public Understanding Goal *to establish Exhibition Place as a destination and gathering place for the community* and as a Strategy to support this Goal *we will increase community use of the grounds by animating and/or programming our parks.*

At its meeting July 5, 2013, the Board approved of the 2014 Capital Works Program along with the additional funding for this PanAm 2015 Budget, which was adopted and approved by City Council at its meeting of January 29 and 30, 2014.

At its meeting of December 1, 2014, the Board approved of a motion to refer Report No. 9 dated November 19, 2014 from the Chief Executive Officer with respect to the Splash Pad in Centennial Square, back to the CEO; a meeting be scheduled with the CNEA, Mark Grimes, Mike Layton, Connie Dejak and staff to discuss the concerns of the Splash Pad location given the CNEA operations in Centennial Square; and the CEO report back to the Board on the results of this meeting.

Issue Background:

In the 2014 budget submission, the Board approved a \$500,000 funding to construct a splash pad within the Centennial Square at the west end of Exhibition Place. Of the \$500,000 funding, \$250,000 was to come from the City PanAm budget in the first instance but with a requirement for Exhibition Place to find a sponsor for the project to the value of \$250,000.

Comments:

The original idea was to locate the Splash Pad on the footprint of the existing McGillivray Fountain near the existing children's playground area and the community basketball courts. The McGillivray Fountain has not functioned for many years and there are several issues with non-compliance of Building Code related to the Fountain. The proposal was to remove the fountain and reuse the existing plumbing and electrical services for a new attractive splash pad.

The McGillivray Fountain is not listed on the City's Inventory of Heritage Properties, however, as part of the splash pad design a Heritage Impact Assessment was conducted by Archeological Sciences Inc. (ASI). The ASI report indicated the primary goal of the conservation strategy should be the conservation and preservation of the McGillivray Fountain either in situ or relocated to an acceptable alternate location and also the repair of the Fountain to a fully functioning fountain.

During the design concept stage undertaken by the prime consultant Terraplan Landscape Architects, two locations were identified in Centennial Park: replacing the fountain in its current or in a location just west of the fountain closer to Dufferin Street.

Given the direction of the Heritage Consultant, staff were asked to explore an option which would have the splash pad west of McGillivray Fountain close to Dufferin Street; maintain the McGillivray Fountain in its present location and put in place a plan to repair it; and maintain a children's playground area. Because locating all three structures in Centennial Square may impact the annual CNE and its active programming of this Square for Kids' World, staff were directed to meet with the CNEA.

A meeting was held on December 10, 2014, with Councillor Grimes, Chair, Councillor Mike Layton, Connie Dejak, David Bednar, GM, CNEA, Exhibition Place staff and a representative of Terraplan Landscape Architects. Terraplan presented the splash pad concept plan attached as Appendix "A". As explained by Terraplan, the design of the splash pad would allow it to be completely turned off so there was no water during the CNE Fair period and the concrete pad would be able to be used as programming area for the CNE. Mr. Bednar did not indicate at the meeting or since any issues with this proposal which is now moving forward to the tender phase and the results of that tender will be reported to the Board at its meeting of March 6, 2014. The City requires that all PanAm projects be completed by July 2015.

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Appendix A







