

Item No. 27



Exhibition Place

February 10, 2014

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Councillor Mark Grimes
Chair of the Board

FOR INFORMATION

Subject: BMO Field Expansion

Summary:

This report provides information with respect to a possible expansion of BMO Field.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications to this report.

Decision History:

At its meeting of November 22, 2013, the Board's draft Strategic Plan made reference to a goal and objective to support an expansion of BMO Field.

At its meeting of October 19, 2005, the Board approved of a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd (MLSE) which LOI was subsequently approved by City Council at its meeting of October 26, 27, 28 and 31, 2005. The LOI and the existing Management Agreement between Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd (MLSE), the Board and the City contemplates an expansion of the stadium from approximately 20,000 to 30,000 seats. The Management Agreement also addresses BMO Field becoming the home for the Toronto Argonauts CFL team.

Issue Background:

As reported in the media, MLSE has been very active in recruiting high performance players for the Toronto FC team and it is now very interested in pursuing the expansion of BMO Field as contemplated in the existing Management Agreement and bringing the Toronto Argonauts CFL team to the stadium. MLSE has been in discussions with the City Manager who has put together a staff team made up of City and Board representatives to work with MLSE on the details of any amendments to the Management Agreement.

Comments:

While the above-noted discussions have just started, there is some urgency to finalize them and seek approval from the Board and City Council so that the expansion of seats in BMO Field can be completed in advance of the PanAm Games.

For the information of the Board, it is my understanding that any expansion of seating at BMO Field will be required to comply with the City's full Site Plan Approval process following any approval by the Board and City amendments to the Management Agreement.

Given the possible timing issues, Councillor Layton and I have discussed holding a meeting of the Exhibition Place Community Liaison Committee in order to get input from the public and hear the concerns of the public. Councillor Layton, Chair of the Community Liaison Committee is proposing a meeting on March 5, 2014 at 7:00 pm at Exhibition Place. Any issues raised by the community can then be reported to the meetings of both the Board and City Council on this matter and fed into the design and planning approval process undertaken by MLSE and City Planning.

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