

River Rescue Response Facility

Environmental Impact Assessment and Site Location Approval

Recommendation:

That Community Services Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That the Environmental Impact Screening Assessment and Site Location Study, as outlined in Attachment 3 and 4 of the June 25, 2013, Community Services report CR_269, be approved.
2. That the existing Fire Station 21 be repurposed to:
 - house an active river rescue crew
 - provide backup service to the downtown core
 - house specialized apparatus
3. That Fire Station 21 be approved as a major facility within the River Valley, and that the location of the facility within the River Valley be deemed essential and approved pursuant to section 3.5.1 of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Development Plan Bylaw.

Report Summary

This report requests City Council's approval of the Environmental Impact Screening Assessment and Site Location Study of the repurposing of Rosedale Fire Station 21, in accordance with the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan for the development of major facilities, and requests that the location of the

facility be deemed essential and be approved.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the May 28, 2013, Community Services Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That the June 25, 2013, Community Services Committee meeting, a Non-Statutory Public Hearing be held at 1:30 p.m. on the Future of the River Rescue Response Facility.

At the August 20, 2012, Community Services Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration prepare a Site Location Study and an Environmental Impact Screening Assessment under Section 3.5.3 of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan with respect to re-activating Rosedale Fire Station 21 to:

- house an active river rescue crew
- provide back up services to the downtown core
- house specialized apparatus

as outlined in the August 20, 2012, Community Services report 2012CSF004.

Report

Fire Station 21 is located in South Rosedale. Fire Rescue Services has used the Fire Station 21 site in one form or another since the early 1950's. The facility began as a training site.

**Please retain this report for
future meetings**

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Fire Rescue fleet maintenance was added along with a crew and pumper truck in the 1980s. The crew and pumper truck were removed from the site in the late 1990s.

Throughout this time the site has included a boat launch and has housed the river rescue boat.

Fire Rescue Services proposes to add a trained river rescue crew to the site to deliver enhanced river rescue service. The proposal also includes housing a rescue truck and other apparatus at the site to make full and efficient use of the crew.

A detailed description of the history of the site and uses proposed as part of this project are provided in Attachment 1.

Presently the river rescue boat is stored at Fire Station 21 but the trained river rescue crew is deployed from Mill Creek Station 6. This creates a 10 to 15 minute delay in launching the boat. Placing a trained river rescue crew at Rosssdale Fire Station 21 would significantly reduce risk.

The location of Fire Station 21 and Station 6 are shown on Attachment 2.

The proposed addition of a rescue truck to the site will make optimum use of the crew. The rescue truck will respond to the 250 to 300 yearly calls that Station 1 is unable to handle in the downtown core.

The existing building would require some maintenance and mechanical

upgrades but no new construction would take place on the site.

The Environmental Impact Screening Assessment (Attachment 3) and the Site Location Study (Attachment 4) reviewed the impacts of the proposed repurposing of Fire Station 21 on the natural environment, as well as the costs, social impacts and institutional constraints. The Site Location Study also investigated the suitability of four other river's edge locations as possible alternative sites.

These studies were conducted by independent consultants and conclude that the environmental impacts of the proposal are neutral and that Fire Station 21 represents the best location of those considered for this proposal.

These studies also considered the potential impacts on surrounding properties. Discussions with Rosssdale residents have drawn mixed reactions.

The positive reactions have supported improvements to river rescue to the benefit of Edmontonians and see a value in having a crew of trained firefighters stationed within the community.

Concerns expressed were around the additional traffic created by the rescue truck.

A full presentation of the discussions with the Community are presented in Attachment 5.

The collective results of the Environmental Impact Screening Assessment, the Site Location Study

and the Public Consultation Summary suggest that while the proposal does represent change, the impacts are neither beyond reasonable limits nor what are experienced in other communities.

This proposal addresses the risk associated with the 10 to 15 minute delay in launching the river rescue boat, and improves rescue truck service to the central core. Further, the proposal has a neutral effect on the natural environment and is located on the best site considered.

Corporate Outcomes

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services plays an integral role in supporting the goals of The Way We Live through the provision of front line emergency services and by being active and engaged in the community.

Public Consultation

Attachment 5 provides a detailed summary of discussions with the community about the proposed repurposing of Fire Station 21. This includes discussions with the Community League Executive on May 30, 2013, at which time some measures that might be taken to mitigate local impacts were discussed.

Budget/Financial Implications

Currently neither the Operating Budget nor the Capital Budget contains funds for the re-purposing of Rossdale Fire Station 21. Any future capital requirements will be brought to City Council as part of the 2014 Supplemental Capital Budget Adjustments or as part of the 2015-2018 Capital Budget. Any operating requirements will be submitted as a

service package for City Council's consideration in a future Operating Budget Process.

Justification of Recommendation

1. Approval of these studies is required to meet the City of Edmonton's North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan.
2. City Council's approval of the repurposing of Fire Station 21 is required.
3. Section 3.5.1 of the Northern Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan states: " It is a policy of this Plan that major public facilities shall not be constructed or expanded unless their location within the River Valley is deemed essential and approved by City Council."

Attachments

1. Detailed Description of the Repurposing Proposal
2. Map Location of Station 6 and 21
3. Environmental Impact Screening Assessment
4. Site Selection Study
5. Public Consultation and Engagement Process

Others Reviewing this Report

- D. H. Edey, General Manager, Corporate Services
- R. G. Klassen, General Manager, Sustainable Development
- L. Rosen, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer