

# International Triathlon Union 2014 Event

## Recommendation:

1. That the City of Edmonton's intent to bid for the 2014 International Triathlon Union Grand Final be approved.
2. That Administration bring forward a capital project profile to fund the 2013 upgrades required to Hawrelak Park, as part of the Spring Supplemental Capital Budget Adjustment, to the April 10, 2013, City Council meeting.

## Report Summary

**This report provides information recommending that a bid for the 2014 International Triathlon Union Grand Final be approved.**

## Previous Council/Committee Action

At the November 28, 2012, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

1. That Administration proceed with the next steps, as outlined in the November 20, 2012, Community Services report 2012CSP020, and provide an update to Committee by the end of the 1st quarter of 2013.
2. That the Community Services 2012 operating budget be increased by \$100,000, on a one-time basis, to fund the preliminary work required to assess the lake at Hawrelak Park to meet International Triathlon Union standards, with funding from 2012 Council Contingency.

## Report

### Background

Edmonton has been invited to consider hosting the International Triathlon Union Grand Final in 2014. The deadline for notifying the International Triathlon Union is January 25, 2013.

Following the motions approved at the November 28, 2012, City Council meeting, assessment of the lake was initiated at Hawrelak Park to facilitate a decision on whether to bid to host the 2014 event.

### Hawrelak Park

Prior to conducting the preliminary assessment a number of on-going issues had been identified with the lake that require remediation:

1. It is suspected that there is a tear in the clay liner making water retention a concern. This is an issue for International Triathlon Union events and for maintaining a proper skating surface in the winter.
2. The lake drain system is only partially functioning. This causes higher risk of flooding the Park Pavilion when water levels are raised.
3. With higher water levels required for events, water is draining in the Park Pavilion and flooding the sub floor sump and HVAC duct system.

To satisfactorily meet the International Triathlon Union's requirements for the lake and to resolve the above issues, it is recommended that work be undertaken to drain the lake, remove the sludge, and repair the liner. Further it is proposed that the clay liner be removed and over excavated in order to carve out

a defined swimming track that is 20 metres wide, 750 metres long, and a minimum depth of 1.4 metres as per the International Triathlon Union guidelines. In this option the lake can be operated under non-flooding conditions, and the liner and drain repaired.

This option meets the depth and width requirements of International Triathlon Union and would better position Edmonton for future International Triathlon Union events.

The preliminary cost estimate for the work is \$1.23 million.

### Next Steps

- The deadline for notifying the International Triathlon Union of the City's intention to bid is January 25, 2013.
- Should City Council support the recommendation a final presentation will be made to the International Triathlon Union on January 25, 2013.
- Work at Hawrelak Park, based on the determination of Council, would start in late summer of 2013 with a late fall completion.

### Other Considerations

- Should Council decide to bid for the 2014 International Triathlon Union Grand Final, the following financial obligations would also be required:
  - Operating funding for 2014: \$1.4 million to be approved in Budget 2014 to fulfill the ask to provide \$2 million of the \$5 million operating budget to the local organizing committee; this is in addition to the \$0.6 million approved in Budget 2013.
  - Capital funding of approximately \$1.23 million to complete work at

Hawrelak Park in order to meet International Triathlon Union facility guidelines.

- Local organizers are working to find potential partners and value-in-kind opportunities through which cost savings may be found. Because of the tight timelines to date, this has not yet been fully explored.
- As both events are scheduled to occur during the September long weekend in 2014, preliminary discussions between the Grand Final local organizing committee and Symphony Under the Sky have begun.
- In the first stage economic impact assessment, it is estimated that there will be a \$16 million benefit to Edmonton of hosting the event.

### **Corporate Outcomes**

The recommendation supports the following:

1. *The Way We Live* – Edmonton is a Vibrant, Connected, Engaged and Welcoming Community; and Edmonton Celebrates Life.
2. *The Way We Prosper* – Edmonton has a Confident and Progressive Global Image; and Edmonton is a Vibrant, Liveable City.

### **Budget/Financial Implications**

The City of Edmonton's operating commitment for this event is \$2 million over 2 years. In addition, an estimated \$1.2 million in 2013 capital funding is required to address the work required at Hawrelak Park, bringing the total City of Edmonton commitment to approximately \$3.2 million over 2013 and 2014.

- During 2013 budget deliberations, Council approved one-time funding of \$600,000 to finance the

anticipated 2013 operating requirements for the International Triathlon Union Grand Final. A service package will be provided in the proposed 2014 budget to request funding for the remaining \$1.4 million of operating needs.

- There are currently no approved capital funds allocated to this initiative. On November 28, 2012, City Council approved \$100,000 to fund an assessment of the work required at Hawrelak Park to meet International Triathlon Union requirements. A request for funding will be brought forward for consideration in the 2013 Spring Supplemental Capital Budget Adjustment on April 10, 2013. The current capital estimate is \$1.23 million.

### **Justification of Recommendation**

1. The opportunity to host the 2014 International Triathlon Grand Final is an excellent opportunity for Edmonton to host up to 6,000 athletes; it is an event with extensive media reach with over 21 million television viewers; and it will bring an expected economic impact of \$16 million to Edmonton.  
In the long-term, hosting an event such as this will further establish Edmonton as the home of triathlon in Canada and continue to build Edmonton's international reputation as an outstanding host city.
2. Direction to bring forward a capital project profile to fund the 2013 upgrades required at Hawrelak Park provides support for Edmonton's bid to the International Triathlon Union.

### **Others Reviewing this Report**

- L. Rosen, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
- L. Cochrane, General Manager, Community Services