

Additional Information Regarding Seating Replacement at Commonwealth Stadium

Recommendation:

That the May 9, 2011, Community Services Department report 2011CSR005 be received for information.

Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the need for capital funding for the replacement of seats at Commonwealth Stadium and supports approval of the Possible Funding for Seating Replacement at Commonwealth Stadium Motion on the Floor.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the April 6/7, 2011, City Council meeting, the following Motion on the Floor was referred to the May 9, 2011, Community Services Committee meeting:

That \$4 million be allocated for the first phase of seating replacement at Commonwealth Stadium, with source of funds being the Financial Stabilization Reserve and that the balance (\$8 million) be phased in the 2012 – 2015 Capital Priorities Plan.

Report

- Commonwealth Stadium was constructed in 1978 with a 43,346 seating capacity. These seats are now 33 years old.
- In 1983, 17,581 seats were added. These seats are now 28 years old. The expected seating lifecycle is 25 years and both seat installations (1978 and 1983) have exceeded their life cycle and require replacement.
- The company that manufactured the seats is no longer in business and Commonwealth Stadium cannot obtain parts to repair the seats. The current stock of parts is expected to be utilized in 2011 for repairs. As this stock is depleted, broken seats will need to be removed or parts will need to be manufactured which will be very costly. The number of seat failures and complaints from customers is steadily increasing. During the 2010 season, maintenance staff repaired over 500 seats.
- The City of Edmonton is bidding to host some of the premier games of the 2014/2015 Women's World Cup of Soccer. A commitment to replace the seats prior to these events would be important to the bid submission.
- The project has been reviewed with seat supply firms and it has been confirmed that a replacement of approximately one-third of the seats per year over a three-year period would be an effective approach. The replacement of the seats would occur between events or in the shoulder seasons (i.e. April to May and October to December). Attachment 1 provides project costs and a phasing schedule.
- There is some urgency to fund this project now in order to allow for completion of the project prior to the 2014/2015 Women's World Cup of Soccer. The delivery time of the new seats is approximately three months;

therefore, to start seat replacement this year, it is necessary to acquire budget approval soon.

Corporate Outcomes

Improve Edmonton's Livability

Budget/Financial Implications

A transfer of \$4 million from the Financial Stabilization Reserve in 2011 would be required. The remaining \$8 million would be phased into the 2012 – 2015 Capital Priorities Plan

Attachments

1. Commonwealth Stadium Seat Replacement - Study

Others Reviewing this Report

- L. Rosen, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
- M. Koziol, General Manager, Capital Construction Department and Acting General Manager, Asset Management and Public Works Department