

## Further Information - Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues 100th Anniversary Project and Hawrelak Park Rehabilitation

### Recommendation

That the June 4, 2019, Citizen Services report CR\_7090, be received for information.

### Previous Council/Committee Action

At the March 20, 2019, Community and Public Services Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration work with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and the festivals that use Hawrelak Park to resolve outstanding concerns arising from the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues' 100th Anniversary Project and provide more information on the Hawrelak Park rehabilitation, and return to City Council during consideration of the Spring 2019 Supplemental Capital Budget Adjustments.

### Executive Summary

The proposed construction of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues' 100th Anniversary Project in William Hawrelak Park has raised concerns with some festival and event organizers who use the park. To address the issues identified, Administration conducted a number of facilitated sessions with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and festival and event organizers throughout April 2019. Administration presented several options and stakeholders discussed the pros and cons of each option. Although consensus was not reached, the group understood the need to further pursue one option which considers operational strategies and design changes to the plaza while keeping the same location.

William Hawrelak Park has served the recreation and event needs of Edmontonians for over 50 years. Through the City's infrastructure asset management process, the park was identified as a priority for extensive rehabilitation to ensure it continues to serve the community for many years to come. Administration developed a rehabilitation plan to guide the capital renewal investment requirements for the park over the next 10 years. Design work for the renewal will be undertaken in 2019-2022. Once completed, the design work will inform the scope, schedule, and budget and a finalized

implementation plan will be presented for City Council's consideration as part of future capital budget deliberations.

## Report

The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues' 100th Anniversary Project is a legacy project recognizing the commitment of volunteers and their contribution to community building. The project consists of three main components to be constructed in William Hawrelak Park:

1. An outdoor plaza, adjacent to the Heritage Amphitheatre beside the lake, that includes a fireplace, picnic areas, landscaping, stage and other amenities.
2. Stream enhancements including waterfalls, viewpoints, naturalized stream crossings, boulders and bridges.
3. Trails with destination points, artistic features and interactive elements.

City Council approved \$600,000 in funding for the project as part of the 2015-2018 capital budget. The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues has requested an additional \$750,000 to complete the project. This request for additional funding will be considered as an emerging item during the Spring 2019 Supplemental Capital Budget Adjustment.

Since initial engagement was conducted on the project in 2014 and 2015, some of the festival and event organizers have changed, the festivals have grown, and the festival space use in William Hawrelak Park, particularly in and around the amphitheatre, has evolved. As a result, some of the on-site festival and event organizers have expressed concerns with the location of the project due to its proximity to the amphitheatre. Concerns relate to noise, availability of space, and movement and egress through the park.

### Process to Address Concerns

Administration has undertaken the following steps to address concerns identified by festival and event organizers. Additional details are provided in Attachment 2.

#### *Phase One: Information Gathering (April 4 - April 14, 2019)*

Administration engaged with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and stakeholders who host events or festivals in William Hawrelak Park to understand the core issues and possible solutions that would best address the needs of all involved. Administration conducted a survey and interviews with interested stakeholders to gather feedback. The survey was distributed to 48 organizers, with 14 providing responses. Interviews and focus groups were offered to all 48 festival organizers and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues. Three sessions were held with six stakeholders including Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues.

*Phase Two: Analysis and Planning (April 15, 2019 - April 26, 2019)*

Of the survey respondents listed above, five of the 14 had no concerns or positive comments, five expressed concerns and four provided comments unrelated to the project.

Positive comments include:

- respondents love William Hawrelak Park
- respondents are passionate about the work they do in the park
- respondents support the idea of an Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues 100th anniversary project

Concerns include:

- location of the project
  - too close to the amphitheatre (disruption of events in amphitheatre due to noise and non-ticketed people experiencing the event)
  - loss of space behind the amphitheatre for festivals and events
- construction and infrastructure
  - disruption to festivals during construction phase
  - emergency access may be impacted
- human resources
  - additional volunteers or security to monitor plaza
  - ongoing maintenance of plaza

*Phase Three: Facilitation (April 29, 2019)*

Administration facilitated a session with all interested stakeholders to review potential options, identified in the first two phases, that would address concerns.

Representatives from Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, Silverskate Festival, Freewill Shakespeare Festival, Edmonton Heritage Festival, and Edmonton Blues Festival participated in the facilitated session. Though participants could not reach consensus, all actively participated in the session and understood the need to continue to move forward. Some stakeholders advocated for an alternate location in the park but indicated that moving the plaza would not be viable. At the meeting, it was identified that the option that considers operational strategies and design changes to the plaza in its current location, with further engagement and dialogue, be pursued.

*Phase Four: Wrap up and Next Steps*

Based on the engagement process, Administration will work with each of the festival organizers to develop operational solutions and cost implications. The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues will need to seek additional funding to engage their design team to work through a redesign.

Park Rehabilitation Update

In spring 2018, Administration initiated development of a rehabilitation plan for William Hawrelak Park to guide investment needs over the next 10 years. The rehabilitation plan includes a review and analysis of the condition and function of park infrastructure and an implementation plan with prioritized recommendations for renewal, phasing options, schedule and cost estimates.

The renewal priorities are extensive due to the age of the infrastructure in the park. The priorities include rehabilitation or replacement of underground utilities (power, water, sewer, gas, irrigation), as well as rehabilitation and renewal of facilities, roads, trails, and open spaces (turf, picnic sites, naturalized areas). With the initial rehabilitation plan now complete, the project will continue with a full park design to further refine the scope, schedule, budget and a finalized implementation approach to the renewal of the park.

Administration has determined the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues' plaza portion of the project could proceed in the 2019-2022 timeframe without impact to the rehabilitation project. However, the utility and stream portions of the project should be coordinated and proceed at the same time as the rehabilitation project.

Administration anticipates the design work will be completed within the 2019-2022 capital budget cycle and construction in the 2023-2026 capital budget cycle unless critical elements are identified that would need to be addressed sooner. Once the design has sufficiently advanced, the project will be brought to City Council for consideration as part of a future capital budget deliberation.

#### *Park Rehabilitation Engagement*

To support the development of the William Hawrelak Rehabilitation Plan, initial public engagement was completed in the summer of 2018 to provide an opportunity for all users to share their perspectives and feedback on the park. A broad audience was targeted from June 2018 to February 2019 through online surveys, intercept and dropbox surveys within the park, a neighbourhood in-person event, and targeted festival and event organizers focus groups. This included a direct invitation to the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues to participate in the in-person event and follow-up meeting with the organization to provide a project update.

As the rehabilitation project proceeds into design, consultation with stakeholders including festival and event organizers and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues will continue. The public engagement and communication plan will continue to be implemented through the design process in 2019-2022.

## Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

<b>Corporate Outcome: The City of Edmonton has sustainable and accessible infrastructure</b>			
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Target</b>
Park facilities are attractive, well maintained and well designed	Percent of residents that agree that parks and recreation areas are well-maintained, according to the Citizen Perception Survey.	2017: 81 percent	2018: 80 percent
	Percent of residents that agree that they have access to infrastructure, amenities and services that will improve their quality of life, according to the Citizen Perception Survey.	2017: 68 percent	2018: 70 percent

### Attachments

1. 100th Anniversary Concept Design Drawing
2. Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues' 100th Anniversary Project Festival Producer Engagement Summary Report

### Others Reviewing this Report

- A. Laughlin, Deputy City Manager, Integrated Infrastructure Services
- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- G. Cebryk, Deputy City Manager, City Operations
- S. McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development
- R. Kits, Acting Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor