

Kihciy Askiy – Partnership Opportunities

Recommendation

That the January 30, 2019, Citizen Services report CR_6168, be received for information.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the June 20, 2018, Community and Public Services Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

1. That Administration explore expanded partnership opportunities to support the ongoing operations of Kihciy Askiy.
2. That the release of up to \$700,000 in civic funds currently being held be subject to an updated report on secured partner funding, the program and business plan.

Executive Summary

Since June 2018, Administration has been exploring partnership opportunities for the Kihciy Askiy project. Administration has convened several meetings including a formal working session in November 2018, with potential partners including educational institutions and Fort Edmonton Park. The group will continue to meet to create a functional operating model.

Administration approached the federal and provincial governments with funding requests for the remaining \$700,000. The Mayor, on behalf of City Council, sent letters requesting funding to both the federal and provincial governments. To date, neither the federal or provincial government has agreed to provide funds; however, there is a possibility of receiving funding through an Alberta Culture and Tourism grant, which is only available to non-profit organizations. Native Counselling Services of Alberta is exploring the grant further, but it is contingent upon a funded operating plan.

Construction of the project is currently on hold. The tender is ready and will be issued once the \$700,000 is released. Parallel to construction work moving forward, Administration will finalize the operating model.

Report

Exploring Expanded Partnerships

Over the summer and fall 2018, Administration initiated informal conversations with local educational institutions including Edmonton Public Schools, Edmonton Catholic Schools, MacEwan University, Norquest College, and the University of Alberta, about involvement in a possible partnership role to support operations of the site. Several of the institutions have expressed an interest in continuing to be involved in an ongoing conversation about Kihciy Askiy and a potential role in supporting operations. Fort Edmonton Park has also formally expressed interest in supporting the operations at Kihciy Askiy. Native Counselling Services continues to be engaged in these discussions.

On November 19, 2018, Administration held a working session with the educational institutions, Fort Edmonton Park, and Native Counselling Services of Alberta. The purpose of the session was to share further information about the Kihciy Askiy project and to discuss potential integration of Kihciy Askiy into the programming and goals of each institution and the interest in becoming involved.

A second meeting of this partner group to continue discussions is scheduled for January 31, 2019.

Operating Plan Update

Native Counselling Services of Alberta has been developing an operating plan for Kihciy Askiy, including a five-year financial plan. Portions of the draft plan have been shared with Administration for feedback and input. The plan is expected to be finalized in 2019.

Native Counselling Services of Alberta intends to pursue operating funding from the City, other orders of government, and potentially from expanded partners or through site user fees. Administration will continue to work with Native Counselling Services of Alberta, expanded partners, and funders to ensure that functional operating and governance structures, as well as operating funding needs, are clearly outlined in 2019.

Fundraising Update

In December 2017, City Council approved an additional \$700,000 in capital funding to enable the construction of a gathering room addition to the Kihciy Askiy pavilion building. City Council approved this amount subject to an updated report on secured partner funding, the program and business plan.

Native Counselling Services of Alberta is exploring a potential capital funding opportunity with Alberta Culture and Tourism. The funding would be contingent upon a funded operating plan.

Construction Update

The construction tender was put on hold to allow time to secure external funding and to explore operating models. The tender was updated to include an Indigenous employment/procurement clause to ensure that Indigenous peoples or organizations have opportunities to be involved in all stages of the project.

Detailed design of the project is complete, in accordance with City Policy C591 Capital Project Governance, and the construction tender is ready. The construction tender is expected to be issued once the funds being held are released, an Indigenous procurement and/or employment clause is included, and greater certainty around the operating plan is in place.

Budget/Financial Implications

City Council approved funding of \$2 million for phase one of the Kihciy Askiy project as part of the 2015-2018 capital budget. The approved profile for phase one was increased by \$550,000 as part of the spring 2016 supplemental capital budget adjustment, and by \$1.26 million as part of the fall 2017 supplemental capital budget adjustment, for a total of \$3.81 million.

During the fall 2017 supplemental capital budget adjustment, Native Counselling Services of Alberta requested an additional \$700,000 from the City to be added to the phase one enhancements increasing the phase one capital costs and City contribution to a total of \$4.51 million. City Council supported this additional capital funding of up to \$700,000, subject to a report on fundraising efforts, and an update on the program and business plan. At this time, no additional funding has been secured. Administration will come forward with a report later in 2019 with the finalized operating model and costs.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): Edmontonians are connected to the city in which they live, work and play.			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
Indigenous and Non-Indigenous People have access to programs and services that are culturally relevant.	Number of activities and events hosted at the newly developed site.	Baseline to be collected in the first year of operation.	Increase by 10 percent or more after the first year operations.

Others Reviewing this Report

- A. Laughlin, Deputy City Manager, Integrated Infrastructure Services

- T. Burge, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services
- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement