



For the Committee of the Whole Meeting October 4, 2018

Date: October 3, 2018

From: Mayor Helps and Councillor Loveday

Subject: Central Park Public Engagement Design

Background

Since Council voted unanimously to replace the Crystal Pool in early 2017, staff have been working to design the new facility. At the detailed design phase 80% of people engaged were in support of the design of the pool; the design reflects many of the elements that staff heard along the way were important to the community.

What staff haven't yet done is any engagement with the community with regard to the future of Central Park. Hindsight being 20-20, it would have been a good idea for pool and park engagement to go hand in hand. The pool has been designed to fit into the park – preserve the large stands of trees, have a public washroom accessible from the park etc. There is still much more work to be done with the community to mitigate the impacts of pool construction on park users and to plan for the future of Central Park

As Council has committed to a development process that meets or exceeds the level expected of a private developer, it is important to ensure that we have asked and answered the same questions we would expect from a private developer. The proposed consultation process will help to ensure that these questions are identified, answers provided, and that the community has an opportunity to weigh in. These questions include the siting of the new recreation facility, impacts on trees in the park, sun-shade modeling, parking solutions and traffic impacts in the surrounding neighbourhood, renderings of the building as it would be seen from the park, as well as from the street, and impacts of construction on neighbours.

Staff have a mandate to undertake engagement this fall with the community on the new facility's parking options. At the same time as staff are doing this engagement, it would make sense for staff to sit down with key stakeholders in the neighbourhood to co-design an engagement process for Central Park that could begin early in 2019 as part of the 2019 work plan.

There is a desire on the part of the City to proceed with the facility design and construction for Crystal Pool before the park planning and neighbourhood and park user impact mitigation is completed. As some trust with the North Park community has been eroded through the process of this pool design, they are seeking some assurances and more concrete commitments. The recommendations below reflect the parameters for engagement being sought by the community related to Central Park. By approving this motion, we commit the City's resources toward a fulsome engagement process for co-design of Central Park with the neighbourhood and timely delivery of these capital improvements during and post-construction of the new Crystal Pool facility.

Recommendations:

That Council direct staff to:

1. Work in partnership with the community to co-develop a plan for a consultation process for Central Park including mitigation of the impacts of pool construction on park users, plans for the future of Central Park, and land use issues related to the new pool and that this consultation planning take place this fall as staff are out in the neighbourhood engaging on parking options.
2. Revive conversations with the community to co-design park disruption and park improvements planning and enter into a Community Benefit Agreement between the NPNA and the City of Victoria with the United Way or other third party acting as convener.
3. Report back to Council, within one month of this motion, with
 - a) An analysis comparing costs and benefits of siting the new facility plan as proposed vs. keeping the new facility in the existing location.
 - b) A proposal for how engagement and park improvement planning will be prioritized in the 2019 operating budget and workplans of relevant departments.
4. Amend the 20-year capital plan to commit the City to a minimum, timely capital investment for each of the a) temporary relocation of park assets, and b) reinstatement of the park's assets and/or other new park improvements at Central Park.
5. Approve 1% of the Crystal Pool project budget for public art and designate this public art funding to be incorporated into the Central Park improvement plan and its corresponding budget.
6. A minimum of one month prior to submitting the City's funding application for the Crystal Pool, direct staff to
 - a) disclose a detailed pool design budget and to work with the community to find opportunities for savings and "value engineering" in the Crystal Pool facility for which to fund the important community benefits being sought (underground parking, park improvements, community centre-like amenities).
 - b) report back to Council on the eligibility and feasibility of including capital costs for underground parking, park improvement, and community-centre like amenities as a component of the Crystal Pool application to the Province for Infrastructure Canada's Community Culture and Recreation grant funding.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mayor Helps



Jeremy Loveday