



Governance and Priorities Committee Report

For the Meeting of October 23, 2014

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** October 15, 2014
From: Katie Hamilton, Director Citizen Engagement & Strategic Planning
Subject: Victoria Morioka 30th Anniversary, 2015

Executive Summary

In May 2015, the City of Victoria will celebrate the 30th Twin City Anniversary with Morioka, Japan.

In anticipation of the anniversary, it is timely to consider celebration activities and the tradition of exchanging gifts between the two cities. It is traditional to invite our Twin Cities to visit on the anniversary date to renew commitments and celebrate the long-standing relationship.

Correspondence has been received from Mr. Yoichi Sakashita, Executive Committee, Peace and Friendship Project, Morioka Victoria Friendship Society, outlining the wish to commemorate the anniversary with the gift of a 'Bell of Friendship' to the City of Victoria.

The 'Bell of Friendship' will be mounted on a pedestal or frame. Nine potential locations were initially identified by Parks and Protocol staff, including: Butchart Gardens, Beacon Hill Park, Centennial Square, Centennial Park, Dr. Inazo Nitobe Memorial Garden, Laurel Point, Reeson Park, Quadra Park and Belleville Park.

When reviewing potential and appropriate sites for installation, factors such as property ownership, current agreements, future plans and other park uses were considered. In addition, site consideration also factored in elements, such as:

- An area in a park where other uses compliment the bell or would not be impacted by the bell, including the ringing of a bell;
- Easily accessible and easy to find for visitors, including those from Japan;
- Tourist vibrancy providing a measure of security;
- A park site that frames the open structure of the bell pedestal;
- New amenity for David Foster Way.

Based on these considerations, locations were narrowed to the following City of Victoria parks:

1. Centennial Park, Laurel Point
2. Reeson Park, 1300 Wharf Street
3. Belleville Green, 250 Belleville Street

Centennial Park is the preferred location as it met most of the positive factors for consideration. Centennial Park is located near David Foster Way and is the entranceway to the path leading to the Japanese Azumaya. There is a horticultural display in place that would provide a backdrop to the bell pedestal. The park will require the least amount of landscaping changes compared to other locations.

Recommendation:

1. That Council approve Centennial Park for installation of the 'Bell of Friendship', a gift from Morioka, Japan to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Twin City relationship between Victoria and Morioka.
2. That Council invite a delegation to Victoria from Morioka to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Twinning, in May 2015.

Respectfully submitted



Sheryl Masters
Manager Protocol



Katie Hamilton
Director, Citizen Engagement &
Strategic Planning

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:



October 17, 2014

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council May 23, 2015 is the 30th anniversary between the City of Victoria and the City of Morioka, Japan, in celebration of forming a Twin City (Sister City) relationship.

Traditionally gifts are exchanged between Twin Cities to commemorate significant anniversary dates. Morioka is wishing to mark the occasion with a gift of a 'Bell of Friendship'.

A Council motion is required to approve the site selection of the 'Bell of Friendship' to mark the 30th Anniversary between Victoria and Morioka.

Council may wish to also consider at this time the City of Victoria's gift to Morioka to commemorate the anniversary. It is also timely to extend the traditional invitation to the Mayor of Morioka to visit Victoria and to celebrate the anniversary date in May, 2015.

Background

The City of Victoria has a twinning relationship with Morioka, Japan. The agreement between the two cities was signed May, 23, 1985. Since that time Morioka has provided Victoria with gifts to celebrate significant anniversary dates:

- Cherry Tree in Centennial Square
- 'Azumaya', traditional Japanese gazebo at Laurel Point;
- Plinth: Morioka Monument, Beacon Hill Park, off Dallas Road, (a plaque will be produced to mark the 30th anniversary for this public amenity);
- Dr. Inazo Nitobe Memorial Garden, Jubilee Hospital

Gifts from Victoria to Morioka have included:

- Kwakwaka'waka Totem Pole
- Heritage cluster lamp with hanging baskets
- Live animals species for the Morioka Zoo (otter pair, goat pair)

The City of Victoria has received correspondence from Mr. Yoichi Sakashita, Executive Committee, Peace and Friendship Project, Morioka Friendship Society, outlining the wish to commemorate the upcoming anniversary with the gift of a 'Bell of Friendship' to the City of Victoria.

Mr. Sakashita has outlined some terms of the 'The Bell of Friendship' project:

1. The 'friendship' theme of the project reflects the significant support, encouragement and financial aid received from Victoria friends at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in March 2011;
2. Costs for the bell and pedestal/frame are part of the gift;
3. The bell will be designed and manufactured in Japan and transported to Victoria;
4. The Morioka Friendship Society has engaged past Victoria Mayor, Alan Lowe, to design the platform and pedestal/frame from which the bell will hang;
5. Proposed installation date is May 20, 2015;

Council's approval of the site selection is required.

Staff will proceed with logistics such as identifying the full scope of the project, including cost to

the City upon confirmation of the site location.

City costs may include: preparation of the site, plaza or underground support, staff time to facilitate the project, liaison with architect, and currently evaluation of location, on-going liaison with Morioka. It is estimated these costs will be approximately \$1,000.

It is traditional to extend an invitation to the Mayor of Morioka to visit Victoria at which time there is an exchange of anniversary gifts. Morioka delegations can often include up to 30 people, often involve participation in the Victoria Day Parade and exchanges with twin organizations such as the Harbour Side Rotary and CFX Radio Station.

Community initiatives are an important component of the twin city relationships. Discussions are currently underway with the Victoria Morioka Friendship Society regarding ideas for activities for next year.

Council will consider a supplementary budget request of \$15,000 in the 2015 Protocol budget for this significant anniversary celebration. The City is responsible for all costs associated with official delegations (six people) including accommodation for five days, transportation, tours, dinners, receptions and gifts.

Victoria is Morioka's only twin city and there is a significant cultural and economic benefit associated with the relationship including approximately three school visits each year, school exchanges, sport team exchanges and promotion of tourism. In 2010, for the 25th Anniversary, the official delegation was accompanied by approximately thirty-five 'unofficial' delegates including the Sansa dancers and members of the Morioka - Victoria Friendship Association. It is tradition for the delegations to participate in the Victoria Day parade

Issues & Analysis

Public art requires on-going maintenance and care, protection from vandalism, and in the case of the bell, consideration of the sound of the ringing. All are factors when considering final site selection. The gifts received to date have added to the vibrancy, attractiveness and multicultural flavour of the City.

The manufacturer of the bell in Morioka has completed production of a traditional style Japanese bell. The Morioka Victoria Friendship Society awaits Council's endorsement of site selection.

Placements of international gifts in the past have been considered on an individual basis. For the location of the 'Bell of Friendship' the following site selection criteria were developed:

- An area in a park where other uses compliment the bell or would not be impacted by the bell, including the ringing of a bell;
- Easily accessible and easy to find for visitors, including those from Japan;
- Tourist vibrancy providing a measure of security;
- A park site that frames the open structure of the bell pedestal;
- New amenity for David Foster Way.

A number of locations were initially considered including Beacon Hill Park, Centennial Square, Centennial Park, Butchart Gardens, Dr. Inazo Nitobe Memorial Garden, Laurel Point, Reeson Park, Quadra Park and Belleville Park. Some sites were dropped from consideration:

- Beacon Hill Park on Dallas Road, location of the plinth: Security concerns;
- Laurel Point, Beacon Hill Park, Butchart Gardens: Limited by current agreements, not City of Victoria property or not in the City of Victoria

- Quadra Park: Future plans for development: (Proposed Sesquicentennial Garden, Canada's 150th)
- Centennial Square and Dr Inazo Nitobe Memorial Garden: Limited capacity for new amenities.

Following a review of the proposal and consultation with Parks staff, three park sites met the criteria. The parks identified for further consideration include:

1. Centennial Park, Laurel Point
2. Reeson Park, 1300 Wharf Street
3. Belleville Green, 250 Belleville Street

Options & Impacts (see map enclosed)

Option 1 – Centennial Park (recommended)

Consider Centennial Park site for installation of the 'Bell of Friendship', a gift from Morioka, Japan to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Twin City relationship between Victoria and Morioka.

Pros:

1. Walking entrance to the park which has a nice horticultural display that would provide a backdrop to the bell pedestal;
2. Location is focal point looking west along Belleville Street;
3. Located along and in close proximity to David Foster Way;
4. Will add to the current uses of the park space and act as an invitation for people to progress along the path to the Japanese Azumaya located further along Laurel Point;
5. Accessible with nearby paved pathways and street parking;

Cons:

1. Close to hotels which may be impacted by the bell ring. Consideration will be given to securing the bell clapper once it is on site.

Option 2 – Reeson Park, 1300 Wharf Street

Consider Reeson Park site for installation of the Bell of Friendship, a gift from Morioka, Japan to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Twin City relationship between Victoria and Morioka.

Pros:

1. Water vista's which could be an attractive backdrop for the bell;

Cons:

1. Park is sloped to the water which will impact the location of the bell pedestal and limit site locations;
2. Future David Foster Way connection will change the look and feel of the park, detailed design of the pathway through the park has not yet been completed;
2. Close to hotel and condos which may be impacted by bell ring. Sound may carry across the water. Consideration will be given to securing the bell clapper.
3. Active park during the day and night with potential for vandalism.

Option 3 – Belleville Green, 250 Belleville Street

Consider the Belleville Park site for installation of the Bell of Friendship, a gift from Morioka, Japan to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Twin City relationship between Victoria and Morioka.

Pros:

1. Would benefit with a cultural feature and increased development;

Pros:

1. Would benefit with a cultural feature and increased development;
2. Overlooks downtown and working harbour which may act as a frame if positioned correctly;
3. On David Foster Way which would benefit by a new cultural amenity.

Cons:

1. Sloped site with no significant backdrop current to frame the bell pedestal; view is of Clipper Terminal;
2. Sloped site condition limits bell placement, landscaping would be required;
3. Site currently is not accessible; street parking is available.

Recommendations

1. That Council approve Centennial Park for installation of the 'Bell of Friendship', a gift from Morioka, Japan to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Twin City relationship between Victoria and Morioka
2. That Council invite a delegation to Victoria from Morioka to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Twinning, in May 2015.



Bell of Friendship

Making the Bell of Friendship in Japan



November 30th, 2013

Dear Mayor Dean Fortin,

First of all, I would like to say what a pleasure it was to meet you and enjoy time with you on the occasion of your visit to Morioka from November 15th.

At the time of our consultation with you about our plan to present, "A Bell of Peace & Friendship" as a gift to Victoria citizens, we were very grateful that you gave your consent to it.

When Mr. Alan Lowe, the former mayor, came to Morioka about one month before your visit to Morioka, we also consulted him about the plan and he offered his assurance that he would cooperate with us in helping with the design. Therefore I am sure we will manage to make the project a success. As we are thinking that the best installation site is in Beacon Hill Park, we would like you to consider this location.

- (1) The outline of the project is as stated in the accompanying attached sheet.
- (2) Regarding any inquiries, we would like to communicate with you through Ms. Sheryl Masters, Manager Administration and Protocol.
- (3) I would be obliged if you did not release information about this plan to the public until the details have been decided.

Attachment: "The Outline of Peace and Friendship Project of the Sister City Exchange between Morioka & Victoria"
and "Sample Pictures of Bells for Your Reference"

Sincerely yours,



Yoichi Sakashita
Executive Committee
Peace & Friendship Project of the Sister City Exchange
Between Morioka & Victoria

Nov.30th, 2013

"The Outline of Peace and Friendship Project of the Sister City Exchange
Between Morioka & Victoria"

- (1) We received very much encouragement and financial support from the citizens of Victoria after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in March 2011.

Sincerely wishing to express our grateful thanks for your support, those of us who have been voluntarily engaged in the twin-city exchange, have planned to present "A Bell of Peace & Friendship" as a gift to the citizens of Victoria.

- (2) Name of the Project: "The Bell of Peace & Friendship Project"

- (3) Executive Committee Members: Messrs. Ryoichi Taguchi & Yoichi Sakashita

- (4) Production of the Bell: cast in bronze (the size of the bell is not yet decided).

- (5) Designer of the Pedestal or Frame: Mr. Alan Rowe (Former Mayor)

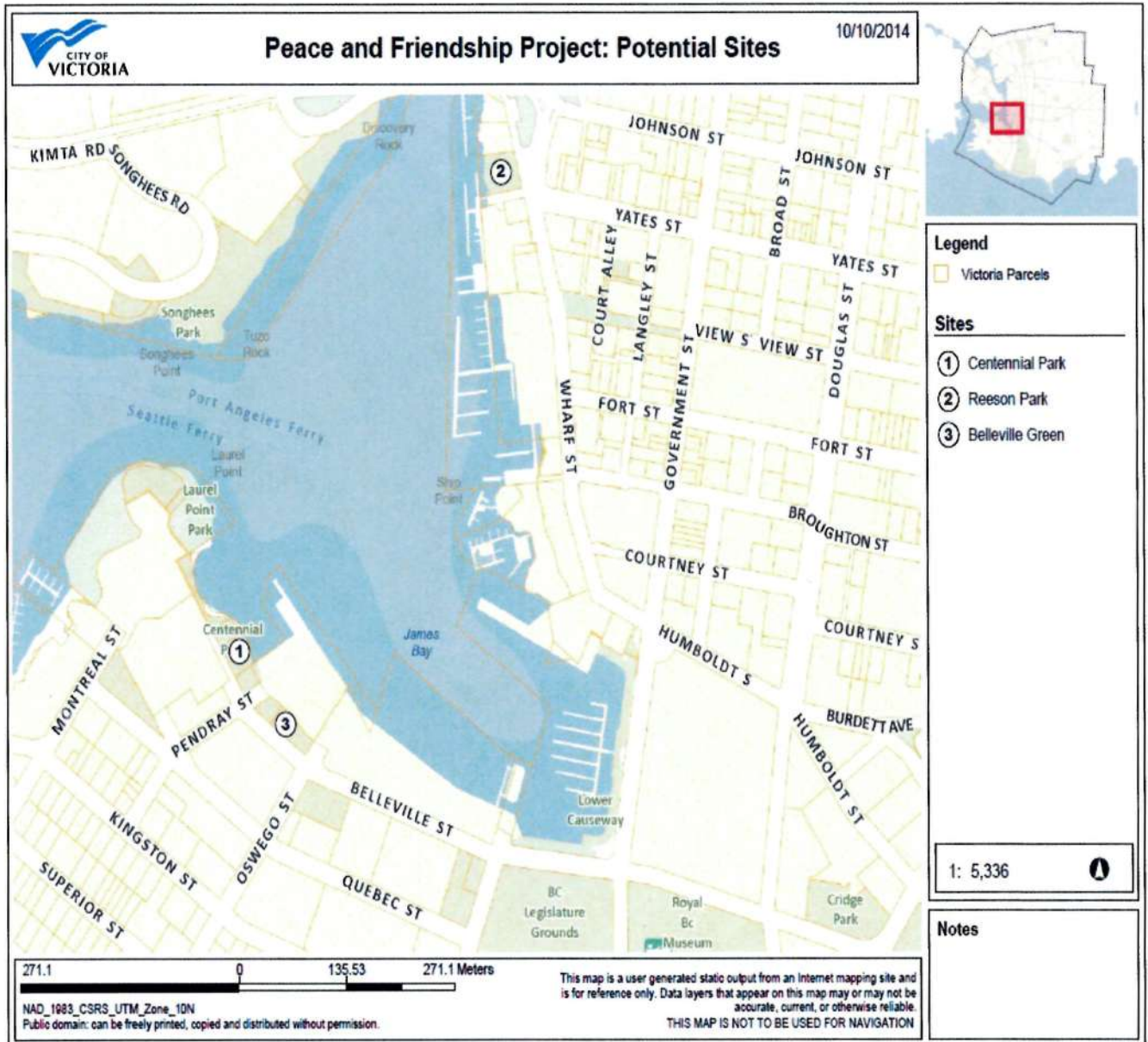
- (6) Place of Installation: near the Dr. Nitobe Inazo's Monument in Beacon Hill Park, Victoria City.

- (7) Completion Date of Installation: May 25th, 2015 · Bell Ringing Ceremony
(The 30th Anniversary Day of the Sister-City Affiliation)

- (8) Approx. Size: width 1,800mm x height 2,200mm (dimensions subject to change depending on design)

- (9) Tentative Schedule:

· January, 2014	– Production Order to a manufacturer
· February, 2014	
to November, 2014	– Production of the Bell
· December, 2014	– Shipping the Bell to Victoria by sea freight
· May, 2015	– Installation work of the Bell



Map of Potential Sites



Legend

- Centennial Park Extents
- Potential Location of Peace and Friendship Bell



1: 900



Notes

45.7 0 22.86 45.7 Meters

NAD_1983_CSRS_UTM_Zone_10N

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This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.
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Centennial Park



Centennial Park



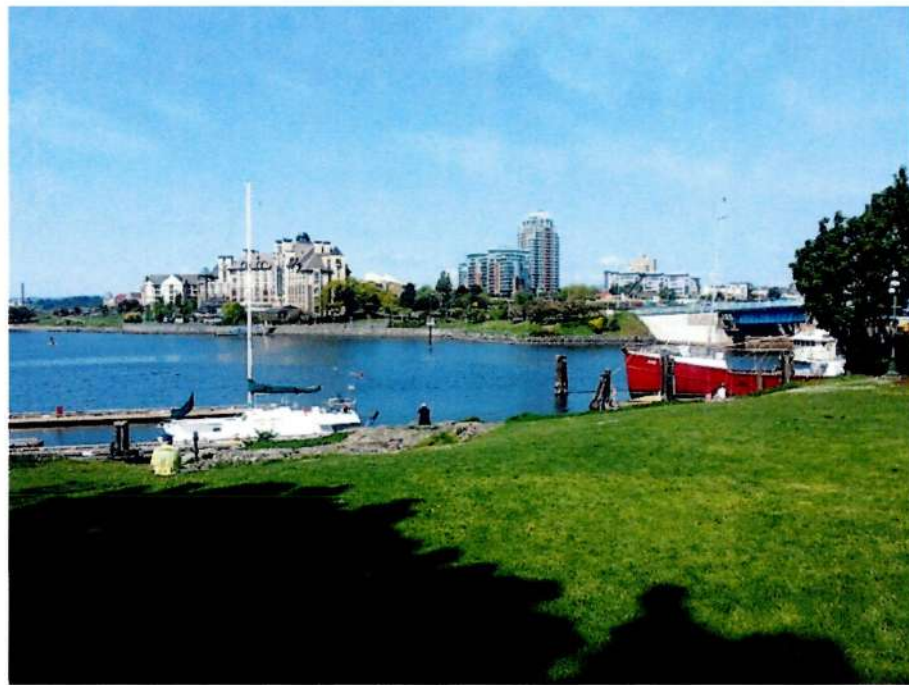
Centennial Park



Reeson Park



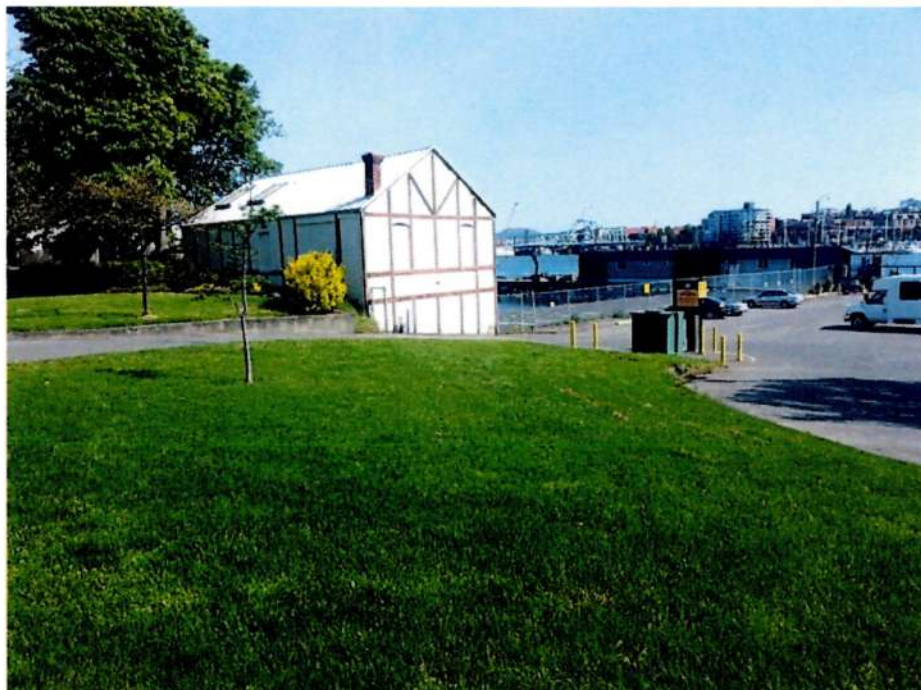
Reeson Park



Reeson Park



Belleville Green



Belleville Green