

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Meeting Date: May 30, 2022
Report Code: CR-22-061
Subject: Ukrainian Village of Owen Sound – Rice House Lease

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-22-061 respecting Ukrainian Village of Owen Sound – Rice House Lease, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a lease agreement for the use of the Rice House for the duration to be determined.

Highlights:

- The “Rice House” is a property at 848 1st Ave East, owned by the City of Owen Sound next to the Tom Thomson Art Gallery and has been vacant since it was temporarily used for Art Gallery administrative offices approximately three years ago.
- The “Rice House” is currently shuttered as the City considers the ideal long-term best use of the property.
- To offer support to the people of Ukraine fleeing the war, the City of Owen Sound, the Grey Bruce Community Foundation and other local organizations and community leaders are collaborating to offer housing and other integration services proposed at the location known as the Rice House.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

Previous Report/Authority:

None

Background:

City Staff were recently contacted by The Grey Bruce Community Foundation and other local organizations and community leaders regarding a need for housing for Ukrainian women and children fleeing the war on Ukraine. The property would be used short to mid-term to circulate people into the community. The project will be led by a Board that would form the governance of The Ukrainian Village of Owen Sound (The Village)

Analysis:

The Rice House is currently vacant and has been shuttered while City staff consider alternatives for the long-term best use of the property. The House has four units which can accommodate four families. The location of the Rice house allows for easy access to City amenities and resources.

The building needs cosmetic changes and capital upgrades. The Village and its donors will pay for these costs and the primary living supplies.

While there is no proposed revenue associated with the lease, ongoing operating costs, including utilities, will be paid for by The Village and described in a future lease agreement between the City and the Board.

Financial Implications:

The lease rate per the agreement will be \$nil; however, there is no anticipated cost to the City for entering into a lease agreement with The Village for the use of the Rice House, and The Village and its donors will bear the operating costs.

Communication Strategy:

Council will be informed of any future discussions or negotiations as the lease agreement is drafted.

Consultation:

The Ukrainian Village of Owen Sound

Property Management Staff

Attachments:

Summary of project, benefits and considerations drafted by representatives for the Ukrainian Village of Owen Sound

Recommended by:

Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Tim Simmonds at tsimmonds@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440.