

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Viveca Gravel, River District Coordinator
Meeting Date: November 4, 2024
Report Code: CS-24-094
Subject: Catenary Lighting in the River District

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-094 respecting Catenary Lighting in the River District, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute agreements with THE HIGH-RISE GROUP Inc., Grey Bruce Property Rentals Inc. and Sundays Service Inc. for the installation of catenary lighting in Carneys Lane and Artists' Alley.

Highlights:

- Additional street lighting can make a space feel safer.
- Lighting the main connection points from parking to the main street will create a more welcoming atmosphere.
- Lighting has been shown to increase safety through the increase in foot traffic.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Safe City.

Adding lighting will support the perception of safety in the River District

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

[Staff Report CS-23-093 River District Additional Street Lighting Enhancements](#)

[Staff Report CS-24-071 Draft 2025 River District Budget Considerations](#)

Background:

In 2008 the City entered into an agreement with landowners on the North and South sides of Carney's Lane to allow the installation of lighted arches. These lights have well exceeded their lifespan and are being removed.

On September 13, 2023, the River District Coordinator presented report CS-23-093 to the River District Board of Management. This report communicated the importance of lighting dark spaces within the River District to encourage increased foot traffic and a feeling of safety. Primary identified areas were Carney's Lane, Artists' Alley, and the Scotiabank Walkway, which connects visitors to municipal parking areas within the River District. The River District Board of Management approved a motion to direct staff to work on a plan to improve lighting in Carney's Lane, Artists' Alley, and the Scotia pedestrian lane. The Scotiabank Walkway was later illuminated with the installation of overhead and wall lighting as part of a private building renovation and, therefore, was not included.

On September 11, 2024, the Director of Community Services brought forward report CS-24-071 requesting the River District Board of Management provide direction on the allocation of one-time funds to special initiatives, including but not limited to lighting enhancements in the River District. The Board approved a motion allocating one-time funds up to \$15,000 for these lighting improvements in the River District.

Analysis:

Decorative and seasonal lighting in the River District can support placemaking, beautification, and the creation of a warm and friendly environment. It has the added benefit of helping to create and build strong communities where people feel comfortable and safe.

Agreements have been presented to the two landowners on the North and South sides of Carney's Lane to replace the agreements from 2008. New agreements have been drafted and presented to the two landowners on the North and South sides of Artists' Alley.

The costs for the lighting and cable will be purchased by the River District with the adjacent landowner supporting the installation.

Council is requested to approve by-laws to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute agreements with THE HIGH-RISE GROUP, Grey Bruce Property Rentals Inc. and Sunday Service Inc. for the installation of catenary lighting in Carney Lane and Artist's Alley.

Financial Implications:

The River District Board of Management approved a budget of up to \$15,000 from their reserves to support the overall lighting strategy, as recommended in report CS-24-071, and to go toward the purchase and installation of the Catenary Lighting.

Communication Strategy:

Staff will communicate with River District businesses following the authorization of a by-law of the pending installation. A Media Advisory will be distributed to the community upon the start of the installation. Social media posts on both the City of Owen Sound and the River District accounts will follow the installation.

The installation of the lights will be used for positive promotion moving forward to reengage the community and as a Tourism draw.

Consultation:

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services
Eckhard Pastrok, Manager of Parks & Open Space
River District Board of Management
Adjacent landowners

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Viveca Gravel, River District Coordinator
Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Viveca Gravel, River District Coordinator, at vgravel@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 Ext. 1209.