

Staff Report



Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Pamela Coulter
Meeting Date: November 16, 2016
Report Code: CS-16-162
Subject: Proposed "Walking is Medicine Tour" – a Truth and Reconciliation Project from Virginia Gail Smith

Recommendations:

That in consideration of Staff Report CS-16-162 respecting the proposed "Walking is Medicine Tour" that Community Services Committee recommend Council:

1. Approve the location of sculptures and interpretive plaques on 3 City sites (2 Kelso Beach Park and 1 at Mary Miller Park);
2. Approve the City hosting information to be provided by the project on the City's website
3. Approve in principle the request regarding directional signage within the right of way with further information to be provided and final approval through the Director of Public Works and Engineering.
4. Request that Virginia Gail Smith ensure approvals are in place from Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada with respect to any proposed use of 2245 and 2255 6th Avenue West;

Strategic Initiative:

Strategic Values – Caring

We care about community. We are a welcoming, inclusive and age-friendly City. We strive for positive change and are committed to continue working a collaborative fashion towards the City's vision of being "Where you want to Live".

Proposed "Walking is Medicine Tour" – a Truth and Reconciliation Project from Virginia Gail Smith

Background:

The City has received a proposal from Virginia Gail Smith; a Truth a Reconciliation Walking Tour Project.

The Proposal (Attachment 1)

The project is proposed as a project in Celebration of Canada 150 and Owen Sound 160.

As described in the attached material from Ms. Smith, the proposal is to create a walking tour of significant Indigenous lands in Brooke providing wayfinding, sculptures markers and interpretive markers with recorded stories. The tour is intended to celebrate our 150/160 anniversary and the people, stories and indigenous history behind the land with the theme of truth and reconciliation. The story telling of the project is meant to inspire, educate and build relationships.

The Mayor had previously provided a letter of support to the proponent with respect to an application to the Community Foundation.

The project includes 5 sites shown on Attachment 2. The sites include:

Site	City or other approval required	Proposal	Teaching
First United Church	Letter of Approval attached	Garden and plaque on private property	Stories of health and medicine
2245 and 2255 6 th Ave West	Approval required from Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada	Plaque and sculpture	Stories of creation

Mary Miller Park	City approval – via Committee to Council	Plaque and sculpture	Stories of final stage of prophecy
Kelso – north end	City approval – via Committee to Council	Plaque and sculpture	Stories of water, fishing and livelihood
Kelso – Reconciliation garden in south end	City approval and approval from Reconciliation Garden project (attached)	Plaque and sculpture	

Truth and Reconciliation

An excerpt from the Summary of the Final report on Truth and Reconciliation is attached (3)– [Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future.](#)

The proposed project includes the type of education and action and reflects one small part of a greater call for community action toward reconciliation.

Analysis:

Approvals required (Attachment 4)

As outlined in the table above, the project requires support and approval from various groups in the community. Many of these are in place and attached. Emails from both Chief Greg Nadjiwon, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and Chief Lester Anonoqot have been received supporting the project.

A letter of support has been received from the Reconciliation Garden project and the groups are working to coordinate their efforts.

Approvals and support have been obtained from the First United Church.

One of the proposed sites is a site that is under the ownership of Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada. Approval will be required from this organization prior to the placement of any sculpture or plaque on this site. There is a cairn on the site today (see photo attached). This is reflected as a condition of approval.

Kelso Beach Master Plan (Attachment 5)

In 2010, Council approved a Master Plan for Kelso Beach Park. The plan is a long term improvement strategy aimed to maximize the potential of this public open space.

The Master Plan recognized the history of Kelso Park as the site of the First Nations of Newash settlement. The Anishinaabe territory extended from Collingwood to Goderich. In winter people moved in small groups to hunting areas but in the spring returned each spring to Newash. Today, Kelso Beach Park is located at Newash.

In the preparation of the Master Plan there were several opportunities for public input with an initial visioning meeting, open house and 2 more formal public meetings. In the summary of community input received, opportunities to celebrate the early history of the park was noted. This idea was reflected in the final conceptual park design in the "Pottawatomie Healing Trail" which includes the Piyak Ootihi or One Heart Memorial Garden centred on alignment of the existing pedestrian bridge.

A copy of the Master Plan as well as the concept plan for the garden is attached. The proposed walking tour with interpretation along the existing trail and at the site of the Reconciliation Garden project is consistent with the Master Plan.

Kelso Beach is zoned Open Space and Hazard. The zone would permit statue, monument, fountain or other memorial or ornamental structure even if the location adjacent to the trail is within the hazard zone. Confirmation from GSC regarding the requirement for a Fill and Construction permit will be necessary before installation.

Information Technology

One component of the project are the interpretive or story telling plaques that would include a QR code. The request is that the City host this information on its website.

The City's Manager of IT has advised that the City can host the information on our website and that "Quick Response Codes" (QR Codes) are free to create and point to a specific page on a website.

The City can create a QR code once the web page has been created.

In order to create the web page City Staff would require all the information, images, and sound files that they would like to be displayed. From there we would create the web page.

Signage between sites

Part of the request is permission for way finding markers between the sidewalk and curb on hydro poles within the right of way.

The City cannot grant permission for the use of Hydro poles. This would need to be obtained through Hydro One.

The City's Sign Bylaw does not regulate signage within the right of way.

In consultation with the Director of Public Works and Engineering, it is understood that the Highway Traffic Act and the Ontario Traffic Manual does allow for local directional signage within the right of way. Further detail would be required by the City's Public Works and Engineering Division on the detail of the signs and location of the markers, however, this can be addressed directly through the Department,

Financial/Budget Implications:

As described in this report.

Communication Strategy:

Ongoing communication with Virginia Gail Smith and the Reconciliation Garden project proponents.

Both projects are proposed as part of the ribbon of activities for the Canada 150/Owen Sound 160 Celebration (Celebration 2017) and will be part of the overall marketing and promotion effort of the City.

Consultation

City Manager, several groups noted, Manager of Parks and Open Space, Manager of IT, Director of PW & Engineering.

Attachments:

1. The Proposal
2. Map of the 5 sites
3. Truth and Reconciliation Excerpt
4. Approval emails and letters
5. Kelso Beach Master Plan

Prepared By: Pamela Coulter

Signature on file

Submitted By: Wayne Ritchie

Signature on file

c. Canada 150/OS 160 Committee