

To: His Worship Mayor Mike O'Brien and Members of City Council.
From: Ken Forrest, MCIP RPP, Director of Planning and Development
Date: August 21, 2019
Title: Officers' Square Revitalization Project – 2019 Fall Construction

Description:

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION:

This item is for consideration in the Open Session.

ISSUE:

This report is provided as additional information for the Officers' Square Revitalization Project 2019 construction. The required approvals are now in place for specific elements of the project and the City is ready to move forward this Fall with construction in Officers' Square.

BACKGROUND:

As directed by City Council, City staff have been working with staff from the New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture to finalize the required regulatory approvals pursuant to the statement of guiding principles outlined in the June 26, 2019 letter of Ministerial support (see attached).

The communication from the Minister conveys overall support for the revitalization of Officers' Square. There is also an emphasis on working collaboratively with the City to move through the regulatory processes quickly and in a manner that applies common sense to pursue the Square's improvement.

Summarized:

- GNB has agreed to undertake the Aboriginal consultation which arises because of Officers' Square being located within 200 metres of an Indigenous Archaeological Site.
- GNB requires the City to minimize or avoid ground disturbance of previously undisturbed soil as much as possible.
- GNB has agreed that it will not require sub-surface archaeological assessment in areas of low archaeology or heritage potential but agrees to monitoring.
- Importantly, GNB has agreed to work collaboratively with the City to agree to a map which will differentiate between those areas within Officers' Square that require monitoring versus sub-surface testing.
- GNB has agreed to permit the City to conduct deep manual testing in previously undisturbed soils instead of mechanical testing. GNB has also agreed to only require monitoring if sub-surface testing at 1.2 metre depth plus a shovel test at the bottom of the pit does not reach archaeological bottom.
- Upgrades to existing utilities or structures will only require monitoring in areas of known ground disturbance.
- GNB has agreed that heritage permits are only required if a character defining element of the Fredericton Military Compound is being altered.

- GNB will remove the condition of the 2016 heritage permit for the revitalization of Officers' Square in phases if the City provides phase-specific final pre-tender drawings and a design rationale document.
- GNB seeks the City's agreement to apply these guiding principles to all future phases of this project.

The required heritage and archaeological approvals are now in place for the proposed 2019 construction work in Officers' Square.

DISCUSSION:

The scope of work for 2019 construction in Officers' Square (with associated permits attached) is as follows:

- Removal of Lord Beaverbrook statue for the purpose of relocating;
- Removal of the remaining balustrade coping stones;
- Removal and re-instatement of retaining wall along Queen Street from the main entrance steps westward;
- Temporary removal of the New Brunswick 104th Regiment of Foot Monument and its re-instatement at the new Queen Street entrance to Officers' Square;
- Construction of the new main entrance as shown on the engineered drawings previously provided to the Province; and,
- Removal of all specified trees identified as part of the full project scope to grade with no subsurface excavation.

In order to complete this work prior to November 15th (to avoid winter concrete work and increased costs), the following are the anticipated timelines for advertising and awarding the tender:

- On or before August 30, advertise tender
- September 17-18, close tender
- September 23-27, award tender
- September 30, start construction

COUNCIL POLICY:

Not Applicable.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION (Immediate Impact on Approved Budget):

There are no significant impacts on the overall approved budget for the Officers' Square project because of the issues identified in this report.

LEGAL CONSIDERATION:

The City Solicitor's Office was not specifically consulted in the preparation of this report.

SUSTAINABILITY DUE DILIGENCE:

- the economic impact: The Officers' Square Revitalization Project involves the renewal of a significant capital asset that was previously owned by the Province but is heavily used by the community. Investing in the Square is consistent with the City's emphasis on infrastructure renewal. The plans for the Square will facilitate year-round use of Officers' Square with positive economic impacts for downtown businesses.

- the environmental impact: None.
- the social impact – The additional archaeological and First Nations consultation requirements have the benefit of providing an opportunity to learn more about the presence of First Nations people in what is now Fredericton.

COMMUNICATION PLAN:

A communication plan has been developed in collaboration with the Department of Recreation, Tourism and Community Engagement.

SPOKESPERSON: Ken Forrest, Jeff Trail

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this report be received as information.

Prepared by: Ken Forrest, MCIP RPP, Director of Planning and Development Services

Approved by: Jeff Trail, Deputy CAO

/Attachments – Ministerial Letter of June 26, 2019. Provincial Heritage Permits: 2016-05 (Revision 1), 2016-05 (Revision 2), 2018-03, 2018-06, 2019-09. Site Alteration Permit: 2019SAP-14. PowerPoint Presentation: Officers' Square Revitalization Project – Fall 2019 Construction.