



Subject: Lockview Park Redevelopment – Public Engagement Plan

To: Council

From: Chief Administrative Office

Report Number: 2021-95

Meeting Date: March 22, 2021

Recommendation:

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-95, be received; and

That Council approve the public engagement plan for the renewal of Lockview Park.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to propose a public engagement plan for Council consideration to share information and receive resident input regarding the redevelopment of Lockview Park.

Background:

At the February 22, 2021 meeting, Council approved a staff report and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and Port Cares regarding a proposed affordable housing development to be located at Chestnut Park. This staff report also indicated that the public would be engaged on the future design and renewal of nearby Lockview Park.

Many neighbourhood residents have expressed concerns about the future of Chestnut Park as well as their interest in being involved in the renewal of Lockview Park and providing input into how they would like the park to look and what types of amenities and equipment they would like.

Discussion:

Lockview Park is a blank canvas so there is an opportunity for residents to be involved at the ground level in helping to decide best uses for the park along with new amenities. The City's 2020-2030 Parks and Recreation Master Plan will also be used as a strategic framework to guide discussions and assist with decision making.

Given public health directives to prevent the spread of COVID-19, an in-person public open house is not possible. However, there are other options that would provide residents with an opportunity to participate in this process including:

- a virtual open house to share information and receive ideas from the community
- an on-line survey with questions and opportunities for input
- a dedicated page regarding the Lockview Park Redevelopment Plan on the City's website
- a project specific email address for the public to provide comments and ask questions

It is recommended a virtual open house be held in mid-June. This would give staff time to review the feedback, develop a draft "what we heard" report and present this to Council for review, and make a submission to the 2022 Budget deliberations starting some time this fall.

Internal Consultations:

This report and public engagement has been discussed with our Corporate Communications Officer, Supervisor of Parks, Executive Administrative Assistant to Economic Development and Tourism Services, and the CAO.

Financial Implications:

There is no financial impact associated with this recommendation to seek public input. Ideas received from local residents will provide the basis for a park renewal plan that will be costed, reviewed by Council and staff, and submitted to the City's Budget Committee for the 2022 Budget deliberations. The renewal of Lockview Park and the investment in new amenities and equipment will likely be a multi-phased project.

Public Engagement:

City staff have developed a public engagement plan regarding the redevelopment of Lockview Park. This is consistent with the December 14, 2020 and February 22, 2021

staff reports referencing the development of a renewal plan for Lockview Park and seeking public input.

Conclusion:

The City is seeking public input regarding the renewal of Lockview Park given the proposed redevelopment of Chestnut Park for affordable housing. A public engagement plan has been proposed to receive ideas from individuals and families in the neighbourhood. This includes a virtual open house, an on-line survey, a dedicated page on the City's website for this redevelopment project, and an email address for the public to provide comments and ask questions. The City is committed to maintaining and investing in parks and green spaces and having amenities that families are looking for.

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.