



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: December 1, 2011
Contact: Richard Newirth
Jacqueline Gijssen
Contact No.: 604.871.6455
604.871.6843
RTS No.: 9404
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: December 13, 2011

O: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Managing Director of Cultural Services
SUBJECT: Vancouver Maritime Museum/St. Roch Capital Project

RECOMMENDATION *

THAT Council approve the re-allocation of \$902,000 to the Vancouver Maritime Museum/St. Roch Capital Project for upgrades to the city-owned St. Roch building as outlined in this report; source of funds to be the 2006 Capital Budget for Olympic Legacy/Cultural Reinvestment.

REPORT SUMMARY *

This report seeks Council approval of a funding reallocation of \$902,000 towards the City owned building housing the City-owned artefact—the St. Roch maritime vessel. These upgrades would address significant building issues which are endangering the St. Roch vessel, a federally designated National Historic Site.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS *

2008 - RTS 7315 - *2008 - 2013 Cultural Facilities Priorities Plan* outlined strategies and tactics for the first five year implementation of a cultural spaces master plan designed to enable the sustainable creation and operation of cultural facilities in Vancouver.

2008 - RTS 7313 - *2008 - 2018 Culture Plan* outlined high level direction for cultural policy in Vancouver.

2006 - Capital Budget introduced the creation of a \$1million "Olympic Legacy/Cultural Reinvestment Fund" that could be accessed for renewal of major cultural facilities.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS *

The General Manager of Community Services recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT:***Background/Context ****

The Vancouver Maritime Museum Society (VMM) occupies a City-owned building north of Hadden Park in Kits Point and has operated in its current location on Kits Point since 1958. The VMM was operated as a department of the City until 1971, when it became part of the Vancouver Museums and Planetarium Association (VMPA). In 1987, the VMPA dissolved and became three separate organizations one of which was the Vancouver Maritime Museum Society. The VMM is an independent non-profit society governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

The VMM holds the City's collections of maritime art and artefacts in trust for the citizens of Vancouver. The St. Roch maritime vessel, which is the premier attraction at the VMM, is part of this collection owned by the City of Vancouver and housed in a City-owned structure adjacent to the Museum building. The VMM also manages the City-owned docks at Heritage Harbour which is home to several historic vessels.

In addition to an annual operating grant, the City currently provides the use of a City-owned facility including harbour and docking facilities, all at nominal rent. The City also provides janitorial, utilities and maintenance support for the facility through the City's Facilities Design and Management Department.

For many years the VMM Board has been exploring site options and commissioned a series of studies to explore the potential of moving and/or expanding the Museum as a means towards a more sustainable future. The most recent study recommended the concept of a new national maritime centre at a site in North Vancouver. In January 2010, the Province of BC withdrew its support for the development of this new national maritime centre, and with this news, the Board of the VMM determined that the best option for the VMM is to remain at their current site. The board and staff of the VMM are about to embark on a new strategic planning process including consideration of a master plan for the site.

The St. Roch historic maritime vessel is a federally designated National Historic Site and important not only to Vancouver but to the national interests in the Canadian north. The St. Roch, a RCMP vessel crossed the North West Passage in 1940. In 1966, the City of Vancouver, under an agreement with the Federal Government restored and housed the ship in a temporary structure where it is still housed today. The Federal Government, through Parks Canada operated the *St. Roch National Historic Site* up until 1995. Since 1995, the City has provided operational funds to the VMM for the St. Roch.

The St. Roch is housed in city-owned building that is in serious need of upgrades and repairs. These include but are not limited to: replacement and upgrading of skylight glazing, replacement of the fire suppression system and replacement and upgrading of storefront glazing. These are serious issues that endanger the St. Roch.

Facilities Design & Management (FD&M) has been undertaking a number of studies on the building including a "Facility Condition Audit," a "Building Envelope Assessment," and a

consultation into "Fire Suppression Replacement Options for the St. Roch." Preliminary results from the various studies indicate a serious situation that must be addressed in the near future including approximately \$600,000 in fire suppression upgrades and possible building components such as HVAC, mechanical, electrical, envelope, structural, and site services of approximately \$750,000. FD&M has set aside an allocation from their 2011 Capital Maintenance Budget, to which the reallocation (the subject of this report) will be added, thereby enabling the City to address the major components of necessary upgrading. The full itemized work program and costing, as well as timing of the project are to be determined in the next several months, taking into consideration the immediate critical needs, long term plans for the facility, timing of work vis a vis weather (skylight replacement) and operational impacts on the Museum.

*Strategic Analysis **

The St. Roch maritime vessel is the lead artefact in the Maritime Museum collection; an item of national significance. While the Maritime Museum is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Museum, external building envelope and major systems are the responsibility of the City, most especially with regard to institutions holding civic collections. The proposed building upgrades will ensure the protection and accessibility of the St. Roch vessel. This project also addresses one of the key gaps outlined in the 2008 Cultural Facilities Plan with regards to stabilizing and enhancing key collections through modernized preservation, exhibition and engagement infrastructure.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)

*Financial **

The source of funds for the reallocation is the remaining funding of \$902,000 in the 2006 Capital Budget for Olympic Legacy/Cultural Reinvestment which was approved in the 2006 Capital Budget for potential Olympic-related costs which ultimately was not required and therefore is available for reallocation at this time. This budget has to date supported modest expenditures the Olympic Collection Legacy project managed by the Museum of Vancouver. Approval of the reallocation will enable FD&M and Cultural Services to work with the Maritime Museum to outline the project, priority work areas and timing.

Not proceeding with the reallocation would endanger both the civic building and the civic maritime artefact asset, the St. Roch. This would also hinder the ability of the Maritime Museum to carry out their programs and services related to the maritime history of BC and Vancouver.

*CONCLUSION **

Council approval of the \$902,000 relocation will enable the upgrade of the facility housing the St. Roch maritime vessel thereby enhancing its long term preservation and accessibility to the public.

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