



CITY OF VANCOUVER

A15

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: Oct 7, 2008
Contact: Barrie Dawes
Contact No.: 604.873.7629
RTS No.: 07710
VanRIMS No.: 13-5400-01
Meeting Date: October 28, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager Engineering Services In Consultation With General Manager of Olympic and Paralympic Operations

SUBJECT: Olympic Decorative Lighting

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve allocation of \$1 million from the Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund to secure a lighting consultant and lighting artist to design, fabricate, procure and install Olympic Legacy/Decorative lighting.
- B. THAT Council authorise the City Manager to retain and execute the necessary agreements to secure the lighting consultant for provision of the lighting design and installation as discussed in this report.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Engineering Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

On December 11, 2007, Council approved the Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund programs and budgets in the amount of \$20 million with instruction to report back on funding for specific projects. One of the programs approved was the Pedestrian Lighting (Special Corridors) with a budget of \$1 million.

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval to spend up to \$1 million from the Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund to select and engage a lighting consultant to work with a lighting artist to design, fabricate and install decorative Olympic Legacy lighting. This work was identified as one of the projects to be undertaken with funds from the Olympic Legacy Reserve and since the Council approval for creation of the Reserve Fund required a report back on the specific projects, this report also provides discussion of the lighting project.

This report also seeks Council authority to enable the City Manager to retain and execute the necessary agreements to secure the lighting consultant. This is necessary to ensure this work is done in a timely way noting the fixed deadline for completion.

BACKGROUND

In December, 2007 Council approved \$20 million for the Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund with funding approvals for specific projects to be reported to Council. A key objective of the Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund is to gain meaningful lasting legacies for the residents and businesses in Vancouver that will benefit the City long after the Games are over. One of the identified legacy projects was decorative street lighting to enhance the public realm.

DISCUSSION

For the Olympic and Paralympic period there is a desire to create distinctive lighting schemes that will assist with wayfinding to significant Olympic and Paralympic sites, create a unique sense of place, and add a special visual effect that will help liven and celebrate the City during the Olympic period.

Staff has selected two areas for this lighting namely Hamilton and Mainland streets in Yaletown and the Cambie Street corridor within the bounds of Cambie Bridge and King Edward Avenue.

Yaletown was chosen because it is a natural link between the two Olympic Live Sites of David Lam Park at Pacific and Drake and the former Larwell bus depot site at Georgia and Cambie. The unique blocks of Hamilton and Mainland Streets with their historic loading docks and distinctive architectural character are currently under lit by current standards and one of the objectives of this legacy project is to enhance the lighting levels through the addition of new permanent pedestrian scale lights. We also intend to create a special sense of place and wayfinding between the Olympic Live Sites by adding decorative and festive lighting.

The other location for the Olympic Lighting Upgrades is Cambie Street from the south end of the Cambie Bridge potentially extending to King Edward Avenue. This stretch of Cambie was selected because it is a direct link from the airport to downtown Vancouver, it ties into the Hillcrest Olympic Curling complex, and it passes City Hall. Also, as the Cambie Street infrastructure has been recently rebuilt in conjunction with the Canada Line street reconstruction there are minimal costs associated with infrastructure upgrades required to introduce a high level of amenity through additional lighting.

The total cost for this scope of work is estimated to be \$2M. \$1M has been included in the draft 09-11 capital plan which will go to plebiscite in November. If the capital plan is not approved, then the scope of this project will need to be scaled back to match the \$1M being sought in this report from the legacy fund.

The next steps of the process will be to engage a lighting consultant who will work with an artist to create and implement the lighting plan (including installation and decommissioning any temporary works). This consultant will be selected via a Request For Proposal process and will work with staff to select an artist from a pre-screened shortlist that is currently being created by the City from the responses to a public call for expressions of interest which generated responses from over 50 artists world wide.

Staff will also be meeting with the respective Business Improvement Associations for the areas chosen to discuss and understand their expectations for pedestrian and decorative lighting within each area.

This report also seeks Council authority to enable the City Manager to retain and execute the necessary agreements to secure the lighting consultant. This is necessary to ensure this work is done in a timely way noting the fixed deadline for completion.

Council will be updated on the selection of the consultant and the lighting improvements being considered prior to the award of contract to supply the lighting fixtures.

Finally, any temporary lighting to be installed for the Olympic period will meet criteria for ability to be re-used in the future and all lighting will be designed to minimize energy consumption as well as minimize misdirected light.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On December 11, 2007, Council approved the Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund programs and budgets in the amount of \$20 million with instruction to report back on funding for specific projects. One of the programs approved was the Pedestrian Lighting (Special Corridors) with a budget of \$1 million.

The \$1 million of proposed funding for the Olympic Decorative Lighting would be budgeted over three fiscal years with \$250,000 planned in 2008, \$500,000 in 2009 and \$250,000 in 2010.

There are no additional funds being requested as part of this report. Subject to approval of the report, funds will be transferred from the Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund to support the implementation of the Olympic Decorative Lighting Plan.

CONCLUSION

The installation of decorative and way finding lighting will provide an important component of the visitor experience to our City, help enhance the celebratory environment in our communities and provide a lasting legacy of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

* * * * *