

Memo



Date: June 15, 2011
File: 0920-20-001
To: City Manager
From: Manager, Strategic Land Development
Subject: CEDAR AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT - ANONYMOUS DONOR UPDATE

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Manager, Strategic Land Development, dated June 15, 2011, with respect to the potential donation towards park construction costs at the Cedar Avenue Redevelopment lands.

Purpose:

To respond to Council's request for an update on the anonymous donor discussions for park construction costs at the Cedar Avenue redevelopment.

Background:

Further to the Council Report dated March 4, 2011, staff have been working towards the successful redevelopment of the City-owned Cedar Avenue properties which will accommodate a significant waterfront park and rezoned tourist commercial site consistent with the Official Community Plan ("OCP").

At the April 18, 2011 Council meeting, Council reopened the public hearing in order to obtain additional information on a potential donation towards park construction costs.

There are two pieces of pertinent information regarding the anonymous Donor situation.

- 1) Certain area residents have been verbal spokespersons for an anonymous Donor (or, "Donor A"). Statements have been made about the Donor and his/her desire to work with the City. Staff can confirm that Donor A has not come forward to speak with the City or the media and apparently will not come forward in the near future. Hence, the validity of Donor A cannot be confirmed or denied.
- 2) Staff have been in contact with someone we believe to be a different potential Donor (or, "Donor B") who contacted the City Clerk on April 18, 2011. This potential Donor has no association with the public statements made in regards to Donor A. Staff have maintained phone and email communication with Donor B who has been travelling extensively. Staff have not had a face-to-face meeting with Donor B; however, we hope to do so in the coming weeks. Confirmation of the donation amounts and terms may not be finalized for a significant period of time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'N' or similar character.

Given the validity concerns of Donor A and the potential timeline associated with working with Donor B, staff recommend the Cedar Avenue rezoning be brought back before Council on June 20, 2011 in an amended form that recognizes input from the community and maintains the integrity of the OCP and the Cedar Avenue Plan.

Staff believe the Cedar Avenue rezoning should proceed to a decision. If a donation is solidified, staff would work with the Donor to determine the most appropriate location for utilization of the funds and then recommend to Council.

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

The current OCP and rezoning bylaws may be amended at first reading and then forwarded to a public hearing.

Internal Circulation:

Infrastructure Planning Department
Policy & Planning Department
Land Use Management Department
Financial Services Department
City Clerk

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Community & Media Relations Considerations:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Existing Policy:

Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:

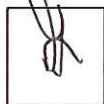
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:



Derek Edstrom
Manager, Strategic Land Development

Approved for inclusion:



Doug Gilchrist, Director, Real Estate & Building Services

cc: R. Cleveland, Director, Infrastructure Planning Department
S. Gambacort, Director, Land Use Management Department
S. Bagh, Director, Policy & Planning
K. Grayston, Director, Financial Services
C. Stephens, Director, Community & Media Relations