

Community Services Report to
SPC on Community and Protective Services
2020 July 15

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
CPS2020-0765

General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund – Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association Application

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association (BRCA) is requesting use of the General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund (the Fund) to assess the feasibility of a multi-modal bridge connection from Bridgeland-Riverside to St. Patrick's Island. The need for better connectivity at this location has been a recurring theme identified through a series of community design collaborations that have taken place over several years and involved a variety of engagement techniques and community input. The bridge would provide a more direct link from the community across Memorial Drive to St. Patrick's Island regional park, and would also serve all Calgarians with improved access from the Bridgeland/Memorial C-Train station to the park and the East Village. The BRCA application is included as Attachment 1.

A General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund Review Committee (the Committee) was established at the 2017 Organizational Meeting of Council to evaluate applications and this recommendation is coming forward to the SPC on Community and Protective Services per the Fund Terms of Reference (Attachment 2). The Committee recommends approving the BRCA's application for up to \$75,000 from the Fund based on the project's alignment to supporting the health of Calgarians. If approved the funds will be used to: *engage consulting services through the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) to project manage a feasibility study of a multi-modal bridge crossing from the north side of Memorial Drive to St. Patrick's Island.*

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

That the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services recommend that Council approve a one-time budget appropriation in 2020 to the Neighbourhood Support service line of \$75,000 funded from the General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund (portion of the Real Estate and Development Services Reserve) for the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2017 October 30, the General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund Review Committee was established at the 2017 Organizational Meeting of Council.

On 2016 July 25, Council approved the updated Terms of Reference for the General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund (PUD2016-0524).

On 1997 May 26, Council adopted a motion by Alderman Bob Hawkesworth to establish a permanent endowment legacy fund, the capital of which would be provided by the net proceeds accruing from the sales and/or leases of the Calgary General Hospital lands; and that the income from the fund would generally support "healthy" Calgary initiatives and programs.

BACKGROUND

In 1997, Council directed Administration to undertake a public process for a land use concept plan leading to the redevelopment of the former Calgary General Hospital Bow Valley Centre site. Developed from the Bow Valley Centre Concept Plan, The Bridges is a 14.0 hectare (36.8 acre) redevelopment project located in the community of Bridgeland-Riverside.

Community Services Report to
SPC on Community and Protective Services
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While considering the project in 1997, Council also directed Administration to establish the General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund (the Fund) as a way to use proceeds from the project to support healthy community initiatives. Terms of Reference for the Fund were approved in 1998 and then updated in 2016 to better align with current City structure and policy (Attachment 2). Per the Terms of Reference, healthy Calgary initiatives shall be defined as those projects and programs that promote and/or contribute to the physical, mental and social health and well-being of all Calgarians. The Fund is available to Municipal, and non-profit public or private agencies/organizations who may apply for funding individually or in partnership with another agency/organization. The current Fund balance is approximately \$17.088 million (at December 2019) with \$2.0 million of the balance comprised of interest.

The General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund Review Committee (the Committee) was established at the 2017 Organizational Meeting of Council and comprises a citizen representative, a business representative from the Bridgeland-Riverside community, the area Councillor and business unit representatives from Calgary Neighbourhoods, Calgary Parks, Calgary Recreation, and Finance. The Committee's mandate is to specify the total funds available for disbursement in any given year for Council's approval, review and evaluate applications and present recommendations to the SPC on Community and Protective Services.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

In June 2020 an application from the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association (BRCA) was presented to the Committee. This is the first community-based application for use of the Fund. The application is for up to \$75,000 from the Fund to undertake a feasibility study for a multi-modal pedestrian bridge that would connect from the community of Bridgeland-Riverside, across Memorial Drive to St. Patrick's Island in the East Village.

The Committee has reviewed the application and recommends the payment of up to \$75,000 from the fund for the following reasons:

- Per the Terms of Reference requirements, the application is from a non-profit agency and has the potential to support, promote, or enhance the health and well-being of all Calgarians through improved walkability in the area.
- The application is based on community engagement through a series of community design initiatives undertaken between the BRCA and the University of Calgary, Sustainable Calgary, and The City of Calgary and would include exploration of a multi-modal bridge design.
- The study would inform decisions to improve access and walkability to St. Patrick's Island regional park in East Village from Bridgeland-Riverside and the Bridgeland/Memorial C-Train station.
- Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) will provide existing studies completed for the redevelopment of St. Patrick's Island to inform the study. A letter of support from CMLC is included as Attachment 3.
- Per the Terms of Reference, upon completion of the feasibility study the BRCA will return to the Committee with a final report including financial accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Any un-used funds will be returned to The City.

Community Services Report to
SPC on Community and Protective Services
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ISC: UNRESTRICTED
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Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

The need for better connectivity in this location has been a consistent theme identified by the community of Bridgeland-Riverside over several years. Community engagement has occurred through a series of community design initiatives between the BRCA and the following partners:

- City of Calgary (2017-2020) – Bridgeland-Riverside Area Redevelopment Plan engagement included community open houses, online engagement and community advisory group working sessions
- B + A Planning (2015-2017) – East Riverside master planning exercise that included a design charrette and a series of community open houses
- University of Calgary (2016) – Urban design initiative that included an additional design charrette with over 100 participants and an open house. Design briefs were presented to over 80 community members and all concepts included a bridge connection option over Memorial Drive per public feedback
- Sustainable Calgary Active Neighbourhoods (2014-2015) – this initiative engaged over 600 community members and 22 local businesses, and identified four areas of need with concepts to address each. One of these concepts was a green or soft landscaped multi-modal bridge “Inviting the River Back into Riverside”

The BRCA will partner with Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) on the project; CMLC will hire the consultant to undertake the Bridgeland-Riverside pedestrian bridge feasibility study. The City’s Transportation group is supportive of a feasibility study at this time. Future collaboration with Transportation will be required pending results.

Strategic Alignment

The proposed use of funds for a feasibility study on a multi-modal bridge connection from Bridgeland-Riverside to St. Patrick’s Island supports the following Citizen Priorities:

- A healthy and green city – proposal will look at ways to improve connectivity to the Bow River park and pathway system with consideration of environmental impacts;
- A city that moves – will consider multi-modal options to improve accessibility between two inner-city neighbourhoods and an existing C-Train station
- A city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods – the feasibility study will explore options for upgraded bridge infrastructure that would improve safety in the area and create a comfortable environment for users

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

The study will explore the potential of a green or soft landscaped multi-modal bridge design that would provide an environmental benefit to the area by ensuring minimized impacts to the river valley and existing parks, and improve access between two inner city redevelopment areas (The Bridges and East Village) and the Bridgeland/Memorial C-Train station. The options developed through the study will consider active modes of transportation and ways to connect Bridgeland-Riverside residents more directly to the river pathway system and St. Patrick’s Island while also linking into the existing C-Train station. The study will consider Crime Prevention Through

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SPC on Community and Protective Services
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Environmental Design (CPTED) and universal access principles in all options to ensure a safer link for citizens and area residents including seniors.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

A one-time increase of up to \$75,000 to the 2020 Neighbourhood Support operating budget funded by the General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund will enable the funding of the business case from the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association. As per the Fund Terms of Reference, this budget increase will be funded from the annual interest income which was \$2 million at 2019 December 31. The Fund balance was \$17.088 million and after this payment will be \$17.013 million.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

The proposal will have no impact on current capital budgets. Impact on future capital budgets is dependent on the results of the feasibility study and the bridge option identified.

Risk Assessment

As this is the first disbursement of funds for a community application, there is a risk in working through a new process. Per the General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund Terms of Reference, all projects must provide to The City a program report and financial accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles upon completion, thus reducing risk. The Terms of Reference also state that unused portions of funds, must be returned to The City. The risk is further mitigated by referencing funding processes and agreements established through other community granting programs.

There is a risk that momentum and project support gained from community engagement may be lost if the study shows that a multi-modal or green bridge is not a feasible and/or cost effective option at this location. The study will provide additional options and a cost/benefit analysis for The City and community to consider.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund was established to support projects and programs that promote and/or contribute to the physical, mental and social health and well-being of all Calgarians. The proposed feasibility study for a multi-modal bridge will lead to options for improved access and walkability between Bridgeland-Riverside, the Bridgeland/Memorial C-Train station and St. Patrick's Island park, located in the East Village.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association Application
2. General Hospital Legacy Endowment Fund Terms of Reference
3. Letter of Support – Calgary Municipal Land Corporation