



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Community Consultation Guidelines for Parks, Forestry and Recreation State of Good Repair Capital Projects

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| Date: | December 9, 2009 |
| To: | Executive Committee |
| From: | Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation |
| Wards: | All Wards |
| Reference Number: | |

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide appropriate guidelines for community consultations and community information sessions with respect to Parks, Forestry and Recreation state of good repair projects, including those funded by the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program (RInC).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that City Council adopt the following protocol for public consultations and stakeholder meetings for state of good repair (SOGR) projects, including those associated with the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program (RInC):

- a. For all SOGR projects that will not affect programming or the uses of an amenity, community consultation or stakeholder meetings will not be required; and
- b. For all SOGR projects that may affect programming or have a service improvement component, one general community information session can be held in cooperation with Recreation staff. This session will provide users with the reasons for the programming interruption, as well as location and programming alternatives.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 (Decision Document Item AU11.6, #3) City Council requested that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation report back to the Executive Committee on appropriate guidelines for community consultations with respect to Parks, Forestry and Recreation state of good repair projects.

Link to Decision Document:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/au/reports/2009-10-20-au11-cr.htm#AU11.6>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

PF&R's Capital Projects Section (CPS) has been receiving increased pressure for greater public consultation for state of good repair (SOGR) projects that has stalled a number of projects delaying completion dates and sometimes moving completion dates into future budget years. When required, CPS staff plan a specific timeframe to schedule meetings with the community and stakeholders. Meetings scheduled beyond this timeframe risk the project not being completed on time and within budget.

COMMENTS

The intent of PF&R's state of good repair (SOGR) program is to maintain PF&R's assets and prolong their life. SOGR projects are not expected to affect the way programming is delivered at a facility or change the way an amenity is used. In 2010, the SOGR program will also include projects funded by the Recreational Infrastructure Canada fund (RInC). It is imperative that all RInC funded projects are substantially completed by March 31, 2011 or the City of Toronto runs the risk of financial penalty. These projects should not be delayed due to unnecessary meetings or over consultation.

SOGR/RInC Projects – Programming not affected

SOGR projects, including those funded by RInC, that will not affect programming or the uses of an amenity require no community consultation or stakeholder meetings. Planned work can be completed without interfering with general facility operations and programming.

SOGR/RInC Projects Affecting Programming

For those SOGR projects that may have a service improvement component, including those funded by RInC, that may affect programming or amenity use (i.e. facility or

amenity closure for the duration of the planned work), one general community information session can be held. This information session should be in cooperation with Recreation staff associated with the facility or amenity and should provide users with information on the reason for the programming interruption, as well as location and programming alternatives.

When pressure is put upon CPS staff to increase public consultation or schedule additional meetings, clients must realize that over-consultation will significantly delay the completion of their project, especially when the intent of the project does not change or impact current or future programming.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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