



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC)

From: Erik Hanson, Heritage Resources Coordinator

Meeting Date: April 9, 2015

Subject: Report ACHAC15-015
Update on the Parkway Gateway Project

Purpose

A report to provide an update on the status of the Gateway Project for south entrance to the City.

Recommendation

That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report ACHAC15-015, dated April 9, 2015 of the Heritage Resources Coordinator, as follows:

That the report with respect to the current status of the Gateway Project be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Background

In the spring of 2014 an RFP was issued for a landscape architect to produce design drawings, specifications and tender documents for a 'Gateway "Welcome to the City of Peterborough" sign and landscape display. It was to be designed in keeping with the architectural expression of the visitor centre. The RFP also indicated that the design:

...may include public art as a component of the Project. This may take the form of a separate piece, but incorporated in the composition of the design for the whole corner at The Parkway and Crawford Drive. Alternatively, it could be expressed in the design of the sign.

The Planning Division convened a steering committee consisting of staff from Planning, Utility Services and Community Services Departments, the prime consultant and the sub-consultant, the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, Peterborough and Kawartha Tourism and representatives from local service clubs to provide oversight for the design process. Basterfield and Associates in partnership with Entro Communications was awarded to contract to produce the design. The steering committee met several times in 2014 beginning in April to discuss issues regarding the site and provide input on design aspects like target audience, placement, message content, etc. At the initial meeting there was some discussion that funding was available through the Public Art program to help fund the project if the project was seen as a public art commission.

In September the committee met to review a draft design. There was discussion at this meeting about the possibility of public art being incorporated into the larger landscape of the intersection, beyond the gateway site itself. Staff and the consultants agreed to explore the idea.

On March 2nd, 2015 Council, sitting as Planning Committee received Report PLPD15-015 of the Planning Division Manager regarding the design of the City Gateway Signs and recommending that the conceptual designs and landscaping be approved and that staff be authorized to proceed with the detailed design and tendering for their construction. The Planning Committee initially approved the plans but the following week, on March 9th, 2015, Council chose to defer a decision to enable staff to review further sign options, consult with applicable advisory committees and consider additional sign locations, such as the south entrance to the City, on Highway 115. On March 11th, a meeting of the steering committee was held that included staff from the Art Gallery of Peterborough, to consider the place of public art in the design.

At the March 12, 2015 meeting of ACHAC, the committee received a presentation from Brian Buchardt, Planner, Urban Design regarding the design of the gateway. In reviewing the design, the committee voiced reservations about the lack integration of public art into the design. The committee felt that providing space for stand alone art installations was not in keeping with the intent of the original design program. Based on Council's direction, the Planning Division will be seeking formal input from the ACHAC regarding design and process. Based on this consultation it is anticipated that revisions will be made to the designs for presentation to Council later this year.

Submitted by,

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