

June Callwood Park Design Competition - Update

Date:	June 18, 2008
To:	Parks and Environment Committee
From:	Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 19, Trinity-Spadina
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide a background and update on the progress and timing of the two-stage, international design competition for June Callwood Park in Ward 19.

Financial Impact

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

DECISION HISTORY

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division is bringing this report forward to provide an update on the progress of the design competition for June Callwood Park.

At its meeting on September 26 and 27, 2007, Council adopted a report which requested approval to proceed with a design competition, designation of funds to support the design and development of June Callwood Park, and the establishment of a Donation Reserve Fund to help offset costs for operation, maintenance, programming and future re-development costs for the park.

Link to the Decision Document:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/ex/decisions/2007-09-04-ex11-dd.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

June Callwood Park is a 0.4 hectare space, located at the foot of the historic Fort York area of Toronto, to be designed and developed as a new park and significant addition to the public realm of the Central Waterfront. Situated northwest of the Fleet Street and Bathurst Street intersections, it will serve as the central public space for local neighbourhood activities in a new high-density, mixed-use community.

In the context of the Fort York Public Realm Plan, June Callwood Park will be key in consolidating and integrating historically significant open spaces. The park will be designed to respond to its historically rich setting; to serve as an important view corridor to and from Fort York; to provide improved access for communities to the north towards the waterfront; and to contribute to the creation of a larger system of linked public open spaces.

A two stage design competition is being administered by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division, with input from the June Callwood Park Steering Committee, to request design submissions from local and international landscape architecture firms with a commitment to design excellence, and a proven ability to design and develop high quality urban parks. During Stage I, qualified landscape architectural firms will be invited to submit a proposal through the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) process. During Stage II, the short-listed teams will each receive a competition brief in the form of a Request for Proposals (RFP), outlining submission requirements and providing additional material required to develop conceptual designs. Upon approval, the winning team will be retained to complete detailed design and construction documents for June Callwood Park.

The Culture Division will be administering a public art competition for an art installation in June Callwood Park. This process will follow slightly behind the park design competition, so that the Landscape Architecture consultant team will be in place to participate in the selection panel for the public art competition.

COMMENTS

In February 2008, the June Callwood Park Steering Committee (JCPSC) was formed. The JCPSC is comprised of key stakeholders in the area, chaired by the Deputy Mayor and includes staff from the Parks, Forestry and Recreation, City Planning, and Culture Divisions, representatives of the Fort York Neighbourhood and design/art community, and representatives of the adjacent land owners. The duties of the JCPSC are to provide input, advice and recommendations to the City on the competition, park design and implementation processes, and other matters submitted to the Committee for consideration.

In June 2008, the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) for June Callwood Park was released. Responses to the REOI are expected to be submitted by the end of June. Up to

four semi-finalist teams will be selected by an evaluation team, and will proceed to Stage II of the competition. Each of these teams will receive an honorarium in the amount of \$15,000, which is remuneration for work to be undertaken during the conceptual design stage of the competition. Short-listed teams will be announced shortly after submissions are received and evaluated.

Upon commencement of Stage II, each short-listed team will receive a competition brief in the form of a Request for Proposals document (RFP). Each of the short-listed proposals will be publicly exhibited and subsequently evaluated by a technical advisory team and jury. The jury will include up to seven members, who will be chosen based upon their experience and knowledge of issues such as landscape design, local area, public art, and June Callwood. The jury will be responsible for recommending a winning scheme from the Stage II submissions to the City of Toronto. Upon approval, the successful team will, subsequently, be retained by the City of Toronto to complete detailed design and construction documents for a signature park commission at June Callwood Park. Stage II conceptual proposals are expected to be received and evaluated by the end of the summer 2008.

Park construction is scheduled to be complete by 2011, before Fort York bicentennial celebrations for the War of 1812 are held. The total cost for the project, including design and construction, is estimated at \$2.0 to 2.5M. The estimate is based on existing and anticipated park levy money and Development Charges generated from area development.

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SIGNATURE

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