



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Streetscape Improvements - Liberty Village BIA, King Street West between Jefferson Avenue and Atlantic Avenue

Date:	April 8, 2010
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Manager, Right of Way Management, Transportation Services Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Parkdale-High Park – Ward 14
Reference Number:	Te10035te.row

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter which Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

Transportation Services has assessed an application on behalf of the Liberty Village Business Improvement Area for streetscape improvements amongst which includes decorative sidewalk with coloured concrete, two art sculptures, and decorative lighting, within the public right of way on King Street West, between Jefferson Avenue and Atlantic Avenue. The Liberty Village BIA feels that these installations reflect the creative spirit of the community and incorporate a sustainable design that can be repeated or expanded at other locations within the Liberty Village BIA as future improvement projects.

As the decorative sidewalk, art sculptures, and decorative lighting will not negatively impact on the public right of way, Transportation Services recommends approval of these encroachments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. approve the installation of the decorative sidewalk with coloured concrete, art sculptures and decorative lighting within the public right of way fronting King Street West, between Jefferson Avenue and Atlantic Avenue, subject to the Liberty Village BIA entering into an encroachment agreement with the City of Toronto, agreeing but not limited to the following:
 - a. maintain the decorative sidewalk with coloured concrete, art sculptures and decorative lighting at their own expense in good repair and a condition satisfactory to the General Manager of Transportation Services and will not make any additions or modifications to the encroachments beyond what is allowed under the terms of the Agreement;
 - b. indemnify the City and utility/telecommunication companies of any damage sustained to the decorative sidewalk with coloured concrete in the event of a need to access the area;
 - c. remove the decorative sidewalk with coloured concrete, art sculptures, and decorative lighting, upon receiving 90 days written notice to do so;
 - d. obtain clearance and/or sign off from Toronto Hydro, Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation, Urban Forestry group and Toronto Water;
 - e. pay for the costs of preparing the agreement; and
 - f. accept such additional conditions as the City Solicitor or the General Manager of Transportation Services may deem necessary in the interest of the City;
2. Legal Services be requested to prepare and execute the Encroachment Agreement.

Financial Impact

Funding for this project is on a cost-shared basis between the City and the Liberty Village BIA.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

An application has been submitted by a representative of Economic Development on behalf of the Liberty Village Business Improvement Area requesting permission to undertake streetscape improvements amongst which include the installation and maintenance of a decorative sidewalk with coloured concrete, two art sculptures, decorative lighting and a new planting area with retaining walls within the public right of way along King Street West between Jefferson Avenue and Atlantic Avenue. This location is situated at the BIA's westerly limit.

The City sidewalk along King Street West between Jefferson and Atlantic Avenues will be replaced with a decorative coloured concrete sidewalk for a distance of approximately 65 lineal metres.

Representatives of the BIA have indicated that the highlight of the streetscape improvements is the installation of the two art sculptures. The sculptures will be located at the intersections of King Street West and Jefferson Avenue and at King Street West and Atlantic Avenue. Photos of the proposed locations of the art sculptures are shown in Appendix 'A'. The sculptures have been designed together with the local artisans of Liberty Village and consist of a series of metal tubes that are fastened together to create a fluid sculpture resembling a flame. A photo of the scale model of the sculptures is shown in Appendix 'B'. The art sculptures including their concrete base structure will stand approximately 5.65 m and 8.0 m in height respectively. The concrete base will have metal lettering cast in place inscribing "Liberty Village BIA" and concealed down-lighting and up-lighting to illuminate both the lettering and the sculptures respectively. The pavement surrounding the sculptures will be of decorative coloured concrete and include recessed in-ground up-lighting. Plan and elevation drawings of the proposed art sculptures are shown on Appendix 'C'.

There is additional decorative lighting proposed within the new planting area and retaining walls. The decorative lighting consists of up-lights installed within the planting beds and custom recessed foot-level lighting within the retaining walls. The BIA feels that the decorative lighting will create an inviting atmosphere, enhance the look of the new planting area and camouflage the parking area located directly behind the planting area.

Given the potential impact of this project on existing utility services, it is the applicant's responsibility to undergo a public utility review with a view of obtaining clearances from the affected utility agencies or satisfying their requirements prior to the issuance of a construction permit authorizing work within the public right of way. At the time of the preparation of this report, clearance from Toronto Hydro, Toronto Water, and Urban Forestry were still outstanding.

COMMENTS

Applicable regulations

There are no provisions within the former City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 313, Streets and Sidewalks, to allow for the installation and maintenance of the decorative sidewalks with coloured concrete, art sculptures and decorative lighting, therefore we are required to report on this matter.

Reasons for Approval

Transportation Services has reviewed the application and determined that the decorative sidewalks with coloured concrete, art sculptures and decorative lighting do not impact negatively on the public right of way and can be permitted; provided that the BIA enters

into an encroachment agreement with the City of Toronto and satisfies any requirements imposed by Toronto Hydro, Toronto Water and Urban Forestry.

CONTACT

Elio Capizzano, Supervisor, Right of Way Management

Telephone: 416-392-7878, Fax: 416-392-7465, E-mail: ecapizza@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Angie Antoniou

Manager, Right of Way Management

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 'A' – photos of the proposed locations of the sculptures

Appendix 'B' – photo of a scale model of the sculptures

Appendix 'C' – plan and elevation drawings of the sculptures

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