
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM3.7	ACTION			Ward:20
-------	--------	--	--	---------

George Robert Grasett Park - Capital Funding Agreement with Parks, Forestry and Recreation - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Norman Kelly

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Norman Kelly, recommends that:

1. City Council, subject to the approval of the 2015 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget, authorize a transfer from the Widmer at Adelaide Park Development project in the amount of \$600,000 funded from the Section 42 Alternate Rate Cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication for 224 King Street West (21 Widmer Street), source account XR2213-4200252, to the Ireland Park Foundation, for the construction of a memorial and related park improvements within George Robert Grasett Park, based on a design, budget, and schedule to be approved by the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the local Councillor, and subject to an agreement being signed between the City and the Ireland Park Foundation.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to negotiate and execute an Agreement between the City of Toronto and the Ireland Park Foundation to design and construct a memorial to Dr. George Robert Grasett and related park improvements, including the acceptance of a maintenance endowment fund and in-kind project value worth a combined \$150,000 under the Policy on Donations to the City for Community Benefits, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, the City Solicitor, and the local Councillor. All work on the project shall comply with City of Toronto policies for Capital Projects to the satisfaction of the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation.
3. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to accept any further donations from the Ireland Park Foundation towards the development and maintenance of "George Robert Grasett Park" on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, the City Solicitor, and the local Councillor.

4. City Council, subject to the outcome of any design competition, authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to approve the installation of any proposed monument or artwork in the Park.

Summary

The City has secured, as part of the redevelopment of 21 Widmer Street, a piece of public property (the "Park") on the southeast corner of Widmer Street and Adelaide Street West, a part of the same block that was occupied by the Emigrant Hospital in 1847. Subsequent to the adoption of City Council Item MM55.67 on August 25, 2014, the site was renamed "George Robert Grasett Park" in honour of physician George Robert Grasett. Dr. Grasett was the Chief Medical Officer at the Emigrant Hospital and, along with a staff of orderlies and nurses, cared for thousands of Irish refugees sick and dying from "ships fever" or typhus as we know it today.

The Ireland Park Foundation has requested the opportunity to design and effectuate a memorial to Dr. Grasett and related park improvements. By the adoption of Item MM55.67 on August 25, 2014, City Council endorsed in principle a partnership with the Ireland Park Foundation to create an appropriate memorial to Dr. Grasett and those who died at the Hospital. The Ireland Park Foundation is presently conducting a Design Ideas Competition for the Park, at its expense, and has offered to contribute to the enhanced maintenance of the memorial through an endowment fund upon completion. The Ireland Park Foundation has received a contribution from the Government of Ireland in the amount of \$150,000, to be used for the project, and intends to continue fundraising. Through another nearby redevelopment, \$600,000 in Section 42 Alternate Rate Cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication funding from 224 King Street West (21 Widmer Street) was approved in the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget, with \$100,000 in 2014 and \$500,000 pre-approved in 2015.

Ireland Park, on the harbourfront beside the Canada Malting Silos, is clear evidence of the Ireland Park Foundation's capacity to successfully develop and convey a new public park to the City of Toronto. The Ireland Park Project had a budget of \$3.8 million of which more than two-thirds were raised from private sources. An additional \$500,000 was secured from the Government of Ireland. The Ireland Park Foundation also executed the design and construction work, completing everything in time for the President of Ireland to ceremonially open the park during her visit to Toronto in 2007.

This Motion authorizes the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Ireland Park Foundation to design and construct George Robert Grasett Park for the City of Toronto. It also grants authority to transfer \$600,000 in Section 42 Alternate Rate Cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication funding in the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget to the Ireland Park Foundation for this purpose.