

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM19.38	ACTION			Ward:27
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Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds from the Development at 333 Bloor St. E., 1 Mt Pleasant Rd., 575 and 577 Jarvis St. to Fund the creation and installation of a Two Plaques Commemorating the Life and Work of Joseph Bloor - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Pam McConnell

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate*

Recommendations

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Pam McConnell, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the approved 2016 Operating Budget for Heritage Toronto by \$24,800.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained in the development of 333 Bloor Street East, 1 Mount Pleasant Road and 575 and 577 Jarvis Street (Source Account: XR3026-3700137), for the production and installation of two plaques commemorating the life and work of Joseph Bloor at 117 Bloor Street East. (cost centre HG0001/4995).

Summary

In spite of his significance and the popularity of his name, Joseph Bloor has not been commemorated in the City of Toronto. For the past 15 years, Heritage Toronto has been working with a range of stakeholders to get this oversight rectified; in particular, historian Steve Otto, ERA architects, and local landowner and property manager St Andrew's Church and Colliers International.

The namesake of Bloor Street, Joseph Bloor was an influential local brewer and land developer. Born in Staffordshire, England, he emigrated with his wife, Sarah Lees, and their three children to York (now Toronto) in 1819. There he farmed, then kept an inn. Between 1827 and 1831, Bloor acquired just under 30 acres along the north side of present-day Bloor Street between Yonge and Sherbourne Streets. Here he established a home and, in the Rosedale Valley, a brewery. The latter was sold in 1843, a few years after Bloor's conversion to Methodism which frowned on intemperate drinking. In 1854, the concession road that separated Toronto from Yorkville was renamed Bloor Street. He died in Toronto in a house at today's 121 Bloor Street East in 1862.

In 2000, a stone marker commemorating Joseph Bloor's house was found in outdoor storage

and poor condition. It was taken into the protective custody of the now-dissolved Toronto Historical Board and is now under the care of Museum Services.

The installation will consist of a replica of the stone marker (which is too fragile to be installed outdoor again) accompanied by a Heritage Toronto commemorative plaque providing historical context and biographical elements about Joseph Bloor.

Heritage interpretation about Joseph Bloor is sorely needed and long overdue. Furthermore, the 155th anniversary of Joseph Bloor's death is coming up in August 2017. Heritage Toronto and its partners would like to organize an unveiling ceremony in time to celebrate this anniversary.

Funds have been secured through Sections 37 benefits from the development at 333 Bloor Street East, 1 Mount Pleasant Road and 575 and 577 Jarvis Street that included funding of \$900,000 to achieve heritage objectives in the vicinity of the lands. Of the original contribution and accrued interest there remains approximately \$689,764 for heritage objectives that have not been spent or remain uncommitted.

This Motion seeks authorization to amend the 2016 Operating Budget of Heritage Toronto to fund the creation and installation of two plaques commemorating the life and work of Joseph Bloor at 117 Bloor Street East. Heritage Toronto had estimated the entire project to cost \$24,800.

As Heritage Toronto is a directly funded City agency and not considered an "outside party", no undertaking is required to be signed by Heritage Toronto governing the use of the funds and financial reporting.

This Motion is urgent as the 155th anniversary of Joseph Bloor's passing is coming in the near future, and there is a desire to unveil the plaque as part of a celebration of his life.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM19.38

(<http://www.toronto.ca/leqdocs/mmis/2016/mm/bqrd/backgroundfile-94058.pdf>)