TORONTO

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Temporary Relocation of the Parent Resources Centre at 1117 Gerrard Street East

Date: March 24, 2017
To: City Council
From: Deputy City Manager, Cluster A
Wards: Ward 30 Toronto-Danforth

SUMMARY

On February 22, 2017, Toronto and East York Community Council requested that City staff report on options, timelines, and resources for the temporary relocation of the Parent Resources Centre at 1117 Gerrard Street East. City staff have been working with agency staff and the Board to develop options. Given the importance of maintaining this service, Children's Services along with Parks, Forestry and Recreation will continue support the agency's staff and Board of Directors work through various options.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The adoption of the recommendation in this report will have no financial impact.

Children's Services is the primary funder of the Parent Resources Centre program and provides funding for its operating costs, including occupancy. While the financial impact of the relocation of the Parent Resources Centre is unknown at this time, it is anticipated that any additional costs will not be significant. The relocation may result in pressure on the Children's Services Operating Budget should the centre incur higher rent costs in a temporary space.

Given the importance of maintaining this service, Children's Services will review the relocation proposal in consultation with Financial Planning to determine its ability to assume any additional costs once a temporary space is selected.

The Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council on March 10, 2016, requested the General Manager, Children's Services and the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to work together to find swing space in the same community during the redevelopment of the property at 1117 and 1119 Gerrard Street East.
http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilDecisionDocumentReport&meetingId=10871

At its meeting of February 22, 2017, Toronto and East York Community Council requested staff report directly to City Council on options, resources and timing of a temporary relocation of the Parent Resources Centre as it relates to the development at 1117 and 1119 Gerrard Street East.
http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.TE22.8

On March 9, 2017 City Council deferred the item TE22.8, 1117 and 1119 Gerrard Street East – Official Plan Amendment, Zoning Amendment Applications – Final Report (TE22.8) to allow staff more time to report on options, resources and timing of a temporary relocation of the Parent Resources Centre. The report can be accessed at http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.TE22.8

COMMENTS

Issue Background

WoodGreen Community Housing currently provides space for the Parent Resources Centre at 1117 Gerrard Street East. This Centre is a parent and caregiver drop-in program that also provides a toy lending library and workshops for parents and caregivers on a variety of topics relevant to child development and parenting. Over 1,300 families access these services annually.

WoodGreen has applied to redevelop the buildings at this location, to include a five-storey building containing new affordable rental housing and community centre space. The Centre would operate out of the new community centre space upon completion.

The Centre currently receives funding from Children's Services. Staff are working with Parent Resources staff and Board to develop options for suitable temporary space for the program during the construction period, which the Centre's Board of Directors will review.

Timelines

Construction at 1117 and 1119 Gerrard Street East is currently anticipated to begin in summer 2018 with an 18-month period of relocation required for the Centre. A meeting with the Board of Directors is being scheduled for May 2017 to discuss the future move and temporary relocation options. As construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2018, the Parent Resources Centre would need to be relocated by late Spring 2018.

Options

Children's Services, Parks Forestry and Recreation, and City Planning have met to develop some options that could facilitate the Centre's search for space. These have included:

- Surplus space available with Toronto Facilities and Real Estate. Facilities and Real Estate has confirmed that a search did not identify any suitable and available space in the local community.

- Parks, Forestry and Recreation has reviewed the seasonal delivery of recreation programs at nearby recreation facilities. Any cancellation or displacement of current programs would not be an option in any plan to provide the agency with swing space in community centres. Limited space at the Matty Eckler Community Centre can be made available for some programs that the Parent Resource Centre offers, but would be subject to the times and dates the centre does not have other committed uses for community permits and/or city delivered programming.

- Staff have also made initial contact with the Toronto District School Board to consider space in nearby schools. Any options that the TDSB identifies will be presented to the Centre for consideration.

- City staff may also provide support to the Centre on methods of engaging assistance for the purpose of reviewing commercial space such as storefront space in the local mall.

Resources

Children's Services staff have met with the Centre's Board of Directors and Executive Director to facilitate discussions on how it will approach the relocation. Staff from Children's Services have also led interdivisional meetings to explore options in City owned space for consideration by the Board of Directors.

In addition, Children's Services is the primary funder of this program and annually funds operating costs, including occupancy. If a temporary space for the program results in higher rent, the program may request additional funding; this would result in a pressure for Children's Services. Other associated costs of the temporary relocation (moving costs, for example), are also currently unfunded and as such may result in a pressure. Given the importance of maintaining this service, Children's Services will determine its

ability to assume any additional costs as part of the annual operating budget process and following the Centre's selection of a temporary space.

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