

City Council

MM31.18	ACTION			Ward:20
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Release of Section 37 funds from the 576-580 Front Street West, 25-27 Bathurst Street and 33, 35, 49 Niagara Street development for additional improvements to Alex Wilson Community Garden - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** 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 Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the Approved 2017 Operating Budget for Non-Program by \$18,430 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 funds obtained in the development at 576-580 Front Street West, 25-27 Bathurst Street and 33, 35, 49 Niagara Street (Source Account: 220096), for the purpose of providing one time capital funding to the Alex Wilson Community Garden Corporation for capital improvements to Alex Wilson Community Garden (Cost Centre: NP2161).
2. City Council direct that the funds be forwarded to the Alex Wilson Community Garden Corporation upon the signing of an Undertaking by the Alex Wilson Community Garden Corporation governing the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.

Summary

Since its inception in 1997, the Alex Wilson Community Garden has provided food and flower growing allotments to hundreds of people, while offering a pedestrian corridor and quiet green space for residents and visitors in the Queen and Bathurst neighbourhood. The land was originally gifted by a local family to the City of Toronto, and a conservation easement was registered on title – to the Alex Wilson Community Garden Corporation, a registered charity. The easement stipulates that the land is to remain a community garden in perpetuity.

This area of the City has seen a rapid population increase over the last 5 years, and has been identified as deficient in green space. Over the 18 years the Garden has been open, wear and tear, graffiti, and cumulative damage to the native plant beds have taken a toll on the site. This project will repair and improve the garden to its original condition while preparing it for another successful 20 years serving the local community. The project will include the restoration and replanting of 43 native plant species throughout the garden, prune and/or remove diseased or damaged trees and vines, and replant where needed, and replace the memorial tree at the south entrance.

Section 37 funds in the amount of \$1,746,011.86 including accrued interest have been secured and received in relation to the development at 576-580 Front Street West, 25-27 Bathurst Street and 33, 35, 49 Niagara Street for the purposes of parkland and streetscape improvements and community facilities within the King-Spadina Secondary Plan area.

The intent of this Motion is to transfer a total of \$18,430 of Section 37 funds from the development described above to the Alex Wilson Community Garden Corporation to provide one-time capital funding for the purpose of improvements to Alex Wilson Community Garden. Alex Wilson Community Garden is located in the King-Spadina Secondary Plan Area. The \$18,430 in Section 37 funds identified above for these purposes have not been spent and remain uncommitted in order to satisfy this Motion.

The Alex Wilson Community Garden Corporation will sign an Undertaking governing the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements prior to the funds being released from the City.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motiom MM31.18