



REPORT FOR ACTION

Donation from Riverdale Farm Stewardship Group for Simpson House Renovation

Date: August 24, 2017

To: Parks and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Ward 28 - Toronto Centre-Rosedale

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from City Council to accept a donation and enter into a donor agreement with the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation, regarding funds raised by the Riverdale Farm Stewardship Group for renovations to the Simpson House building, a City-owned facility located at Riverdale Farm. This report also recommends that City Council amend the 2017-2026 Council-approved Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) Capital Budget and Plan to include the donated amount in the existing special facilities project known as Riverdale Farm Residence Retrofit, for the Simpson House. The scope of work includes washroom relocation and repairs to the existing structure which is showing signs of deterioration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to accept a donation of \$0.120 million from the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation, raised by the Riverdale Farm Stewardship Group, for renovations to the Simpson House building, a City-owned facility at Riverdale Farm, in compliance with the City's Policy on Donations for Community Benefits.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to negotiate and sign a donor agreement with the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation to use the \$120,000 donation for renovations to the Simpson House building at Riverdale Farm, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
3. City Council authorize an amendment to the 2017 Council-approved Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget and 2018-2026 Future Year Commitments for the Riverdale Farm Residence Retrofit sub-project, in the Special Facilities project, by increasing the project cost by \$0.120 million, from \$1.275 million to \$1.395 million, with cash flow in year 2018, funded from the donation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2017-2026 Council-approved Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) Capital Budget and Plan includes the Riverdale Farm Residence Retrofit sub-project, in the Special Facilities project, with a project cost of \$1.275 million.

This report recommends the addition of the donation of \$0.120 million to the overall project, increasing the overall project cost from \$1.275 million to \$1.395 million, with cash flow in year 2018, funded from the donation.

There are no additional annual operating costs associated with the planned improvements as the Simpson House building is an existing asset, and as such, is part of Parks Forestry and Recreation's base operating, maintenance and inspections budgets.

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

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting of February 15 and 16, 2017, adopted the Parks, Forestry and Recreation 2017 Capital Budget through item EX22.2 (22a.i. and 22a.ii.). Funds in the amount of \$0.900 million were added to the Riverdale Farm Simpson House sub-project, with funding from PFR Reserve Funds.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.EX22.2>

City Council, at its meeting of February 17, 2016, approved PFR's 2016 Capital Budget through item EX12.2 (28.a.i.). The Riverdale Farm Residence Retrofit (Simpson House) sub-project was approved with a total project cost of \$0.375 million and funding from PFR Reserve Funds.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EX12.2>

City Council, at its meeting of July 11, 12 & 13, 2012, approved the Riverdale Farm Business Plan:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX21.3>

City Council, at its meeting of October 30, 31 and November 1, 2012, amended its Donations to the City for Community Benefits policy:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX23.17>

At its meeting of September 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2006, City Council adopted its Donations to the City for Community Benefits policy.

http://www1.toronto.ca/city_of_toronto/toronto_office_of_partnerships/files/pdf/donation_policy.pdf

COMMENTS

The Riverdale Farm Stewardship Group (RFSG) was formed in February 2013 following a City Council directive to create a strong, single voice to seek out sustainable funding, create new learning opportunities and develop the Farm's financial opportunities for the future.

The RFSG works closely with the local Ward Councillor, City staff and Riverdale Farm's numerous stakeholders, partners, and members of the general public to create new and vibrant partnerships that inform, educate and increase public awareness of the role farms have played and continue to play in our lives, now and for future generations.

The goal of the RFSG is to secure a stable and sustainable funding base to offset the operating costs of Riverdale Farm and ensure existing service levels are maintained or enhanced while remaining accessible to the public.

In 2012, City Council authorized the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to accept donations from the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation and directed that all funds raised through fundraising initiatives and revenue generation be allocated as a first priority toward offsetting the operating costs of Riverdale Farm. To date, the RFSG has raised \$120,000 to contribute to the Simpson House "Welcome Centre". Authority by City Council is required to accept the donation and amend the 2017 Capital Budget and 2018-2026 Capital Plan in order spend the funds.

The 2017 Capital Budget for PFR includes \$1.275 million for design and construction of renovations to the Simpson House Building. The construction project will preserve and improve the Simpson House as a "Welcome Centre" and a hub for learning and discovery on the Farm. The existing facility will be rehabilitated and the public washrooms will be relocated on the main floor and rebuilt to ensure compliance with AODA accessibility regulations. In addition, the balance of the main floor will be renovated as a programmable event space and "Welcome Centre" for visitors. The space will include electrical and telecommunications infrastructure for production lighting, power and digital and analog media presentation, exhibit display, conference and lecture hosting. This renovation work will enhance the facility and farm for the public.

A public open house was held March 1, 2017 at Riverdale Farm in Ward 28, organized by the Councillor in collaboration with Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to present concept design options for the renovations at Simpson House. Approximately 50 members of the public attended the Open House and response to the concept was enthusiastic and favourable.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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