
City Council

Motion without Notice

MM44.69	ACTION			Ward:20
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Authorization to Release Section 45 Funds from 426-444 Adelaide Street West to Project Bookmark Canada for the installation of two commemorative plaques at Spadina Avenue and College and Christie Pits - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** 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 Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the approved 2018 Operating Budget for Non-Program, by \$50,000.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 45 community benefits obtained in the development of 426-444 Adelaide Street West (Source Account: XR3028-4500140), in order to forward the funds to Project Bookmark Canada for the installation of two commemorative plaques in Ward 20 at Spadina and College and Christie Pits.
2. City Council direct that the \$50,000.00 be forwarded to the Project Bookmark Canada upon the signing of an Undertaking by Project Bookmark Canada governing the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.

Summary

Project Bookmark Canada is a nationally registered charitable organization that is building Canada's literary trail by putting pieces of stories and poems in the exact, physical locations where literary scenes are set. Project Bookmark Canada is a one-of-a-kind, Canadian cultural innovation. Though many countries have tangible tributes to literature and writers, no other initiative in the world creates a permanent series of site-specific literary exhibits using text from imagined stories that take place in real locations.

Across Toronto, there are many neighbourhoods, city streets, and local landmarks that have been memorialized in novels and stories about our city – recognizing these are important ways to recognize our arts and cultural heritage, and enhance the ways that people experience our streets and the public realm. Project Bookmark is proposing to install to bookmarks in Ward 20, to commemorate two stages of our Canadian Literary heritage.

The first Bookmark would be for a passage from Karen X. Tulchinsky's 2010 novel, The Five

Books of Moses Lapinsky, originally published by Polestar, An Imprint of Raincoast Books. We looked at three chapters, all set in the Kensington Market and Christie Pits area, and wish to recommend a Willowvale Park Bookmark for a passage describing the August 16, 1933 Christie Pits Riots.

The second Bookmark would be for a passage from Jawbreakers by Milton Acorn, a poem entitled “Knowing I Live in a Dark Age,” originally published in 1963 by Contact Press, for a scene set at Spadina/College, describing the area where Acorn lived, at The Hotel Waverley, and where he frequented, The Silver Dollar, c. 1960.

Funds have been secured and received as a condition of approval of a minor variance (Section 45) application in relation to a development at 426-444 Adelaide Street West (Committee of Adjustment file A0848/11TEY) to be used towards improvements to parks, the public realm, or community facilities in Ward 20. The use of funds to fabricate and install commemorative plaques is in compliance with the City’s approved Planning Act Reserve Account Guidelines.

This motion is urgent in order to allow Project Bookmark to continue with project planning in a timely manner.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM44.69