

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM16.11	ACTION			Ward: 13
---------	--------	--	--	----------

Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds for Ward 13 2023 Participatory Budgeting Projects for the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood - by Councillor Chris Moise, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll

** 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.*

**A Revised Member Motion and a Revised Appendix A were posted on March 18, 2024.*

Recommendations

Councillor Chris Moise, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll, recommends that:

1. City Council amend the 2024-2033 Capital Budget and Plan of Transportation Services Division to create a new capital sub-project for the development of the following projects, as outlined in Appendix A:

a. \$2400.00 gross, \$0 debt, fully funded by Section 37 (Planning Act Reserve Fund) community benefits obtained from the development at 65-77 King Street East and 46 Colborne Street (Source Account: XR3026-3701018) for the purpose of installing bike corrals near 2 Berkeley Street; 120 King Street East; and 34-36 King Street East (Cost Centre: CPT824-03);

b. \$800.00 gross, \$0 debt, funded by Section 37 (Planning Act Reserve Fund) community benefits obtained from the development at 40 The Esplanade (Source Account: XR3026-3700065) for the purpose of installing a bike corral near 26 Wellington Street East (Cost Centre: CTP824-04).

c. \$1800.00 gross, \$0 debt, fully funded by Section 37 (Planning Act Reserve Fund) community benefits obtained from the development at 6-18 Church Street and 51-63 Front Street East (70 The Esplanade) (Source Account: XR3026-3700344) for the purpose of installing six additional heritage street signs to promote the visual identity of the neighbourhood (Cost Centre: CTP724-01).

2. City Council increase the 2024 Operating Budget for Non-Program for the purpose of forwarding funds to the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area for the development of the following projects, as outlined in Appendix A:

a. \$50,000.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 (Planning Act Reserve Fund) community benefits at 53, 61 and 65 Ontario Street, and 102 Berkeley Street (Source

Account: XR3026-3700872) for the purpose of installing hard planters for more growing spaces (Cost Centre: NP2161);

b. \$5,000.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 (Planning Act Reserve Fund) community benefits at 176-178 Front Street East and 33 Sherbourne Street (Source Account: XR3026-3701237) for the purpose of installing ten heritage street banners within the original ten blocks of the Town of York (Cost Centre: NP2161);

c. \$150,000.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 (Planning Act Reserve Fund) community benefits at 176-178 Front Street East and 33 Sherbourne Street (Source Account: XR3026-3701237) for the purpose of installing street furniture in the public realm location of 109 Front Street East in the plaza between Jarvis Street and George Street (Cost Centre: NP2161).

3. City Council direct that \$205,000.00 be forwarded to the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area, subject to the Business Improvement Area signing an Undertaking governing the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.

4. Prior to the release of the funds identified in recommendation 3.c. to the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area, City Council direct the City Solicitor to ensure the plaza at 109 Front Street East is fully accessible to the public, not gated from the street, available throughout the year (save and except for repairs or emergencies) and appropriately lit for safety after dark through an easement in favour of the City to the satisfaction to the City Solicitor.

5. City Council direct that the use of Section 37 community benefits be prominently recognized in documents and promotional materials, including on any construction hoarding, in consultation with the Ward Councillor.

Summary

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a system of direct democracy where residents imagine how their neighbourhood could be improved, suggest potential ideas and then vote on how funds are spent to improve their community through capital projects. 2023 was the first year Participatory Budgeting was implemented in Toronto Centre to determine how community benefits funding should be allocated.

Between May 25 to November 1, 2023, my office hosted online and in-person engagements with local residents and business improvement areas to crowdsource ideas. These ideas were then vetted for costing and feasibility with City staff and presented to the local community to vote on which projects they would like to see funded.

In the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood, nine projects were supported by the local community that fit within the allocated budget of \$750,000:

- new street planters at four intersections;
- heritage street banners for the original 10 blocks of Town of York;
- a new public plaza at 109 Front Street East
- custom vinyl-wrapped garbage receptacles;
- new street furniture;
- new bicycle parking;
- cafe tables and chairs for St. James Park;
- new St. Lawrence Heritage Conversation District street signs; and,
- replacement of dead or dying trees in the neighbourhood.

The release of funds for these projects would allow for locally supported capital projects to move forward in a timely manner. Funding for custom vinyl-wrapped garbage receptacles, new street furniture and new cafe tables and chairs for St. James Park require additional review. Funding for replacing dead or dying trees in the neighbourhood has been removed following a conversation with Parks, Forestry and Recreation as it is not eligible for Section 37 funding and is not included in this motion.

Background Information (City Council)

Revised Member Motion MM16.11

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-244307.pdf>

Revised Appendix A: List of Participatory Budgeting Projects

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-244306.pdf>