

Report to Council



Date: April 11, 2016
File: 1810-50
To: City Manager
From: M. Olson, Manager, Property Management
Subject: License of Occupation and Memorandum of Understanding for a Portion of Brent's Grist Mill Heritage Park
Report Prepared by: P. McCormick, Planner Specialist

Recommendation:

THAT Council approves the City entering into a License of Occupation and a Memorandum of Understanding, with the University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO), for use of a portion of the Brent's Grist Mill Heritage Park located at 1435 Dilworth Drive, in the form attached to the Report of the Manager, Property Management, dated April 11, 2016;

AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction.

Purpose:

To secure a License of Occupation and a Memorandum of Understanding for UBCO so that they may proceed with a Pollinator Project as described in the Report of the Manager, Property Management, dated April 11, 2016.

Background:

The Pollinator Project is an environmental revitalization partnership between the University of British Columbia Okanagan and the City of Kelowna. The City of Kelowna will provide in-kind support in the form of a fallow site located at the Brent's Grist Mill Heritage Park (Schedule A). The partnership will transform an under-utilized site into a pollinator meadow to benefit a multitude of environmentally-threatened pollinator species, while simultaneously helping to raise community awareness of environmental sustainability issues.

The project will be under the direction of Nancy Holmes, Associate Professor, Department of Critical and Creative Studies, UBCO. It will make extensive use of volunteers who will re-establish native plant species to the subject area. As the Project will not use potable water but will rely principally on precipitation, the volunteers will also implement progressive water-conservation techniques.

Community engagement will be a critical aspect of the Pollinator Project through a series of on, and off-site workshops and presentations, many of which will use public art to help raise awareness, inspire participants, and empower individuals to adopt positive change within their own neighbourhoods. These aspirations are consistent with City policies aimed at an enhanced quality of life for all residents of Kelowna.

The site is approximately .5 ha in size and is ideally suited to conversion to a pollinator meadow. It has good visibility from Dilworth Drive and although there will be no public parking on the site in conjunction with any Project-related activities, the site has easy access for any machinery or other vehicles required for site development, servicing public engagement activities, e.g., portable toilets, and on-going maintenance.

Three heritage-designated buildings are currently located on the site. There are no immediate plans for development of the site to capitalize on its heritage status. However, Council has directed staff to undertake preliminary discussions with heritage stakeholders through a public engagement process. This engagement will take place in spring 2016. A pollinator meadow is regarded by staff as an intermediate use that is compatible with the long-term potential for the site. Should the City at any time wish the site for a use deemed to not be compatible with the Pollinator Project, the License of Occupation gives the City the right to terminate the License upon thirty (30) days' notice.

All media support and on- and off-site activities including volunteer activity and engagement with the public-at-large will be organized by UBCO. The role of City staff will principally be to liaise with UBCO project representative as well as to coordinate any permissions and approvals required by UBCO with regard to use of the subject area. A proposed work plan is attached as Attachment B.

In summary, staff anticipate the following benefits to the citizens of Kelowna:

- Meaningful community dialogue and heightened awareness of a critical environmental issue;
- An opportunity to demonstrate and to reinforce the City's leadership in environmental stewardship;
- A strengthened relationship with the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

Internal Circulation:

Manager, Parks and Building Planning

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:
Communications Comments:
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by: M. Olson, Manager, Property Management

Approved for inclusion: D. Edstrom, Director, Real Estate

Attachments: 1. Schedule 'A' - License of Occupation
3. Schedule 'B' - Memorandum of Understanding
2. Schedule 'c' - PowerPoint Presentation

cc: J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living and Culture
J. Creron, Divisional Director, Civic Operations
A. Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure