



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: September 20, 2019
Submitted by: Mayor Rob Vagramov
Subject: City Lands – One Year Later

Purpose

To provide direction to Staff regarding the next steps in determining the future of the City Lands, and to clean up the Old Firehall No. 1 site for interim uses.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT staff report back to Council by the end of 2019 with options (excluding sale) for exploring the future of the Old Firehall No. 1 site, and the existing Woks Yard site;

AND THAT staff be directed to remove the fencing and large accumulation of items in storage on the Old Firehall No. 1 site;

AND THAT staff report back to Council with costs and options for potential interim uses of the Old Firehall No. 1 site, as recommended in the report dated September 20, 2019 from Mayor Rob Vagramov regarding City Lands – One Year Later.

Background

Since the 2018 non-binding referendum regarding public opinion of what should happen with the City Lands, which sought to gauge support for the sale and/or lease of the lands in question, the Old Firehall No. 1 site's visual condition has continued to deteriorate. Rather than a programmed space that the City can be proud of, this site has become unsightly for residents and visitors alike, when it could be a sign of promise of a future publicly enjoyed commons.

Discussion

Following the public's decision rejecting the 2018 City Lands Public Opinion Question, it is clear that the direction desired is to keep the site publicly-owned and to find innovative ways to maximize its potential. Our Council will need to make some important decisions about the future of the two City Owned Sites, and this may involve a new process to arrive at a conclusive decision. This report recommends that Staff report back to begin this process by the end of 2019.

Further, it has become clear that the visual condition of the most prominent site – the Old Firehall No. 1 site – has become at best Unsightly and could be put to better use for community value. This report recommends immediate clean up of the site to bring it up to Port Moody standards of street and city beautification.

CONSIDERED AT THE OCTOBER 8, 2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The discussions regarding the future of the City Owned Lands may take months, potentially years, to be resolved, particularly with authentic public engagement. During this time, it is unacceptable to leave such a significant, central, and large public property empty and without use. It is the intent of this report that Staff bring back a significant list of short-term uses for the Site, in order to maximize community use of the land, and/or bring in revenue to the City, and/or foster an understanding of community ownership of this parcel. In the short run, the community could see increased programming, in the long run, this initiative may inspire a sense of pride and ownership of this Site, leading to increased awareness and input into future discussions regarding its long-term future.

Staff is encouraged to be creative when generating a list of potential uses. These should include community activities/events, potential partnerships with local businesses, considering new 'pop up' concepts (such as a weekend petting zoo), public engagement initiatives (such as open houses, or outdoor Council/Committee meetings), partnerships with environmental groups, community garden/food security workshops, among others. The site's electrical hook-ups should be explored to understand whether or not power can be supplied for short-term uses.

Financial Implications

Staff time for a report.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

Provide information on internal and external communication and civic engagement initiatives.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

This report's recommendations are in line with the following Strategic Plan items:

- Be stewards of City lands to optimize benefits to community well-being
- Create engaging public spaces
- Create diverse, natural, open-space experiences throughout the community
- Enhance economic development opportunities in Port Moody
- Diversify the City's revenue sources to ensure sustainability
- Encourage and promote community opportunities for the public to experience arts, culture, and heritage activities
- Encourage and promote community events
- Embracing new ideas, encourage creative thinking and trying new approaches.
- Inspire environmental actions and advocacy.
- Encourage public participation

Report Author

Rob Vagramov, Mayor

CONSIDERED AT THE OCTOBER 8, 2019 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Report Approval Details

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| Document Title: | City Lands - One Year Later.docx |
| Attachments: | |
| Final Approval Date: | Sep 30, 2019 |

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dorothy Shermer

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