



Town of Newmarket
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York Region Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program – Mulock Park Public Art at Yonge Street/Mulock Drive Intersection Staff Report to Council

Report Number: 2023-28

Department(s): Engineering Services

Author(s): Alana Chen – Capital Project Manager, Bill White – Project Management
Leader – Mulock Property

Meeting Date: May 8, 2023

Recommendations

1. That the report entitled York Region Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program – Mulock Park Public Art at Yonge Street/Mulock Drive Intersection, dated May 8, 2023 be received; and,
2. That the Engineering Services Department be authorized to submit an application under the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program (MSPP) offered by York Region for the construction of the Beacon Art installation (“streetscape improvements”) on roadways at the intersection of Yonge Street and Mulock Drive; and,
3. That, if successful, the Town will fund at least 50% of the design and construction costs associated with the public art, to a maximum Town contribution of \$330,000; and,
4. That, if successful, staff be directed to enter into a maintenance agreement with York Region; and,
5. That once the streetscape and intersection improvements are complete, they be maintained by the Town at its sole cost; and,
6. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive authorization for staff to submit a grant application to York Region's Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program and for the Town to accept construction cost sharing and sole cost for maintenance of the improvements following project completion.

Background

The York Region "Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program" (MSPP) grant is currently accepting calls for funding from local municipalities. The purpose of York Region's MSPP is to provide funding to local municipalities to support streetscape design. The program assists in cost sharing on locally-initiated streetscape projects to improve the public realm in York Region. The Town of Newmarket has taken advantage of this grant opportunity in the past with the streetscape improvements on the south-east corner of Bathurst Street/Davis Drive, and other projects.

The Mulock Park Art Plan, approved by Council on June 6, 2022 in Staff Report 2022-34, includes a "Beacon" Artwork at the Yonge Street and Mulock Drive intersection. This "Beacon" has been identified as a streetscape improvement that may be eligible for funding under the "Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program".

A competitive and open jury procurement process is underway to select an Artist to produce a fully developed concept for the "Beacon" art piece. The procurement process is being led by Art+Public UnLtd, a sub-consultant to PLANT Architect Inc., who holds a contract with the Town under SS-2021-45 for the Mulock Property Implementation Plan. The final artist selection is scheduled for the week of May 8, 2023, and the selected Artist will work with the design team to prepare a fully coordinated concept and construction documents.

Discussion

As a condition of application, York Region requires a supporting Council Resolution to share construction costs, and to commit to maintaining all constructed streetscape elements for the project. The estimated budget for the Beacon art piece is \$330,000, and has been previously approved by Council via Staff Report 2022-34 on June 6, entitled "Mulock Park Public Art Plan", on June 6, 2022. If York Region approves the application, the MSPP grant can fund up to 50% of all design and construction costs. This could potentially reduce required Town funding for the Mulock Park Beacon Art piece by up to \$165,000.

Depending on York Region decisions, funding at less than 50% of the total cost is possible. Funding is available in the Town's budget for the full \$330,000 approved cost of the Beacon Art, independent of York Region funding. Any York Region funding would therefore reduce impact on other Town of Newmarket funding sources.

Conclusion

The proposed project will act to enhance the Yonge Street and Mulock Drive streetscape and will help implement elements contained in the Mulock Park Master Plan, and the Mulock Park Public Art Plan.

Obtaining funding from York Region would reduce the financial impact on other Town of Newmarket funding sources previously approved by Council.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

Creating Extraordinary Spaces and Places

Consultation

The content of this report has been developed in collaboration with Engineering Services, Public Works Services, and Recreation and Culture. .

Human Resource Considerations

None.

Budget Impact

Operating Budget

The Mulock Public Art Plan has outlined an annual maintenance and repair budget of 7% of the commissioned project budget. The anticipated annual operating budget for the Beacon art piece is estimated to be \$23,100 (2022 dollars).

The operating budget required to support Mulock Park is being phased in annually by a planned incremental allotment of \$250,000 of assessment growth each year for 5 years. Operating costs will be confirmed before the Park becomes operational.

Capital Costs

The estimated budget for the Beacon art piece is \$330,000. Capital Spending Authority for the Mulock Park project, including this work, was approved in April 2021 in the Mulock Park Master Plan appended to Staff Report 2021-29.

Should York Region approve funding for the Beacon Art Piece through the MSPP program, the capital budget required for the artwork could be reduced by up to \$165,000 through grant funding.

Attachments

Mulock Public Art Plan

Approval

Rachel Prudhomme, Director, Engineering Services

Colin Services, Director, Recreation and Culture

Jeff Payne, Commissioner, Community Services

Peter Noehammer, Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

Contact

For more information on this report, please contact Bill White at 905-953-5300 x 2505 or e-mail, bwhite@newmarket.ca.