



Corporate NO: R241

Report COUNCIL DATE: October 30, 2000

REGULAR			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	October 19, 2000
FROM:	General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture	FILE:	8096-001
SUBJECT:	Site Selection For Learning and Discovery Centre		

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the new Surrey Museum and Archives, as part of the Learning and Discovery Centre, be located on the Cloverdale Fairgrounds on a highly visible site of approximately 10 acres, between 60 Avenue and 62A Avenue on 176 Street.
2. That Council direct staff to prepare applications at the appropriate time for capital funding from the senior levels of government including the Infrastructure Program.
3. That the fund-raising efforts of the newly created Friends of the Surrey Museum and Archives Society be endorsed.

BACKGROUND

The process of planning a new Museum and Archives began in earnest in 1990 with federal, provincial and municipal funding to undertake a feasibility study and needs analysis. Since that time, several studies and public planning processes have confirmed the obvious needs to upgrade and enlarge the existing facility. The public has verified the desire and interest in an improved and expanded operation. The Future Surrey process, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Cultural Strategic Plan have all provided validation for an improved facility.

In 1999 the concept for a new Museum and Archives, as part of a cultural destination to be called the Surrey Learning and Discovery Centre, emerged. This concept was approved by Council on March 29, 1999. Council further directed staff to: a) carry out a site selection process; and b) identify potential partners for the project.

A thirteen member Task Force (attached) was created in January 2000 to address the site issues and partnership opportunities. Between February and September, the Task Force held nine meetings and three public open houses. In total, each member contributed approximately 40 hours to the project in meeting preparation, meetings, public process and providing feedback.

DISCUSSION

Site Selection Process

The site review and selection process began in January 2000 with the identification of five City owned properties adjacent to the Guildford Library, in Cloverdale at the Fairgrounds, in Bear Creek Park east of the Arts Centre, adjacent to the North Surrey Recreation Centre and at Tom Binney Park. The Task Force, staff and consultants identified the highest priority criteria needed for a successful site selection process.

Following site visits, the criteria were applied to the five sites. The three sites that met the selection criteria best were short-listed. Three public open houses were held in May to solicit community input to identify a preferred site. During the three meetings, approximately 400 people saw the presentation and had an opportunity to comment. The consultants received 117 completed surveys. The site preferred by the public was the Cloverdale Fairgrounds. Following this feedback, the Task Force received and reviewed additional site information including issues of access, egress, parking, zoning and lease agreements. The Task Force met in June with local Cloverdale stakeholders including representatives from the Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce, the Cloverdale BIA, the Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition Association. Additional discussions were held with staff in the Planning and Development Department concerning the connection to and impact on the Cloverdale Town Centre Plan.

After considering all of this information, the Task Force unanimously recommended that the new Museum and Archives, as part of a Learning and Discovery Centre, be located in Cloverdale on a highly visible portion of the Cloverdale Fairgrounds site between 60 Avenue and 62A Avenue.

Partnership Development

The Future Surrey Vision and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 1996-2006, both identified the need for a new Museum and Archives facility and further identified that the new facility should not be developed as a stand alone destination. During the 1997-99 process for planning a new Museum and Archives, the public identified a new and enlarged cultural destination which became known as the Surrey Learning and Discovery Centre.

The current process has moved closer to identify public and private sector partners that will make the Museum and Archives a regional destination. These partners include the following:

Public Sector City of Surrey Operations Private Sector Collections & Services

Museum	34,500	Teamsters vintage vehicles	25,000
Archives	9,400	Other transportation collections	2,000
Weaving Centre	3,500	Teleconferencing/Meeting Rooms	2,500
Genealogy	3,000	Private Exhibits/Secured Storage	2,500
Fire Collection	2,000	Gift shop/souvenirs	2,000
RBCM satellite	3,000	Food and Beverage	2,000
Common & circulation	4,600	Common space & expansion	4,000
Total	60,000 sq ft	Total	40,000 sq ft

Capital Funding Opportunities

The planning process for the new Museum and Archives began with both provincial, federal and municipal funding support in 1990. Through the provincial Cultural Services structure and the federal Heritage Canada - Museums Assistance Program, substantial commitment of approximately \$165,000 for feasibility and conceptual planning has been contributed. The cost of the new Museum and

Archives is estimated at \$13.5 million. Other public sector partners would increase the cost to \$15.7 million and private sector partners would bring their own capital contributions to a total potential capital cost of \$21.5 million.

There are several funding sources available to significantly reduce the City's capital contribution. These include the following:

- Canada/British Columbia Infrastructure Program
- Foundations - including Koerner Foundation, Western Development Foundation and others
- Corporate and Private Sector

It should be noted that there are a large number of civic projects identified in the City's 5-Year Capital Budget. This project would need to be considered in relationship to these other projects and the very limited capital funding available within the next 10 years. There would need to be significant external funding sources confirmed to make the project viable within this time frame.

The Friends of the Surrey Museum and Archives have identified that they will launch a community fund-raising campaign next Spring to raise \$1,000,000. The Surrey Foundation is interested in assisting and discussions have begun concerning the development of a special Endowment Fund to support special projects of the new Museum and Archives. The private partners in the facility will undertake their own fund-raising towards the capital infrastructure costs of the 40,000 square foot part of the building occupied by the private sector.

CONCLUSION

Since 1990, there has been extensive analysis and public involvement regarding the need to replace the existing Surrey Museum and Archives. The project has evolved into the exciting concept of the Learning and Discovery Centre. The preferred site has been determined at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds and work on fundraising has begun. The focus now has to be placed on examining all potential funding sources and confirming partnership opportunities.

Don Hunter, General Manager

Parks, Recreation and Culture

DH:dlg

Attachment

cc: City Clerk

City Manager