

Political Commitment Protocol Agreement with Red Pheasant Cree Nation

ISSUE

The City of Saskatoon (“City”) and Red Pheasant Cree Nation (“Red Pheasant”) share common objectives that include aligning land use and development with the strategic goals of the community, ensuring efficient and cost effective infrastructure, and encouraging sustainable and diversified economic development. To advance these objectives, Red Pheasant and the City have prepared a Political Commitment Protocol Agreement for the Governance and Priorities Committee’s (“GPC”) consideration. The Agreement outlines a framework in which the parties can plan a shared path forward to their mutual benefit.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That City Council approve entering into the Political Protocol Agreement attached to this report as Appendix 1; and
2. That His Worship the Mayor and the City Clerk sign the Political Commitment Protocol Agreement on behalf of the City of Saskatoon.

BACKGROUND

Red Pheasant currently owns 80 acres of reserve land located within the Riel Industrial Sector Plan area, which was included as part of the City boundary alteration in 2015. The land owned by Red Pheasant is in a raw and un-serviced state and is not slated for servicing for a number of years.

Prior to the boundary alteration, when Red Pheasant’s land was located in the Rural Municipality of Corman Park, a Compatible Land Use Agreement (“CLUA”) dated November 8, 1999, was entered into between Red Pheasant, the Rural Municipality of Corman Park and the City. The CLUA contains matters such as land use planning and compatibility and is attached to this report as Appendix 2. In addition, the CLUA recognized that a City boundary alteration was a possibility and that when this occurred, Red Pheasant and the City would renegotiate the CLUA to reflect urban land use and services.

Since that time, the City has had various communications with Red Pheasant with respect to the City’s land use and infrastructure plans and Red Pheasant’s potential uses of the land, including uses that would be temporary in nature. The land is currently vacant and undeveloped. The parties have not yet renegotiated the CLUA, but discussions have taken place with respect to outlining a framework in which the parties can plan a shared path forward.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

In January 2021, Red Pheasant reached out to the City to propose entering into a Political Commitment Protocol Agreement to establish a framework for the ongoing relationship between Red Pheasant and the City.

The proposed Political Commitment Protocol Agreement outlines matters such as:

- Separate jurisdictions of the parties;
- Shared objectives of the parties;
- Cooperation and coordination in relation to land use and infrastructure planning, environmental management, economic development and promotion of culture and history;
- Information sharing; and
- A method to resolve any potential disputes.

The City is committed to supporting economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of the community as a whole. The Political Commitment Protocol Agreement meets with this commitment while also advancing the goals of reconciliation and building a partnership with Red Pheasant.

IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial, social, legal or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

If the Political Commitment Protocol Agreement meets with GPC's approval, it must be sent to City Council for final approval. At the appropriate time, the CLUA will be renegotiated and brought to City Council for consideration.

APPENDICES

1. Political Commitment Protocol Agreement
2. Compatible Land Use Agreement dated November 8, 1999

Report Approval

Written by: Jodi Manastyrski, Senior Solicitor
Approved by: Cindy Yelland, City Solicitor
Reviewed by: Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager