

Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Site Options Update – July 2022

ISSUE

Planning for the development of a Downtown Event and Entertainment District continues for a new Downtown event centre/arena and convention centre. An update regarding the timing of the site selection process is provided in this report.

BACKGROUND

At its May 24, 2022 Regular Business Meeting, City Council considered the report entitled "[Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Arena Site Options Evaluation Criteria](#)," which outlined the event center/arena site option evaluations criteria with respect to planning for a future Downtown Event and Entertainment District.

At its June 27, 2022 Regular Business Meeting, City Council received the report entitled "[Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Site Options Update](#)" which provided an update on the event centre site options being worked towards.

CURRENT STATUS

The event centre/arena site options and an engagement plan and communications strategy is nearing completion and is expected to be publicly reported later this summer.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Negotiations to secure privately owned site options have progressed well over the last year, with conditional agreements in place for some sites. At the June City Council meeting, Administration informed City Council they were optimistic that an options and engagement report would be brought forward to the July Council meeting.

On July 8, 2022 Administration was advised a further extension is required by a private owner to facilitate required approvals on their end. This delay will not impact the extent of communication and engagement planned for the Downtown Event and Entertainment District site options. Administration will plan for the options and engagement report to be brought forward to the August City Council meeting. This would mean engagement will be pushed back from the latest anticipated months of August and early September to September and October, providing further delays are not requested by the private landowner.

Administration will provide an update report at the August City Council meeting as to the next steps for the Downtown Event and Entertainment District.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified financial implications at this time.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no communications, Triple Bottom Line, policy, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations at this time. These will be considered in future reports as required.

NEXT STEPS

Public engagement and communications on the site options is expected to commence later this summer/fall following which, Administration will report back to City Council for a decision on the event centre/arena site location.

REPORT APPROVAL

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