
Safe Consumption Site in Saskatoon – Councillor R. Donauer

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager, Community Services Department, dated April 8, 2019 be forwarded to City Council for information.

Topic and Purpose

This report is to provide an update as to the City of Saskatoon's role in the current plans for the establishment of a safe consumption site within Saskatoon.

Report Highlights

1. The City of Saskatoon has a Zoning Bylaw, Building Bylaw and permitting processes in place to guide any development and building permitting.
2. The Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD) communicates with stakeholders and provides needle data through information sharing.

Strategic Goal(s)

This report supports the City's Strategic Goal of Sustainable Growth by providing information regarding the zoning districts in place in Saskatoon, and the intention through Bylaw No. 8770, Zoning Bylaw, to provide a clear and predictable development regime.

Background

City Council, at its Regular Business Meeting on March 25, 2019, received a Notice of Motion from Councillor R. Donauer and resolved:

"That the Administration report expeditiously on the impending application for a Safe Consumption Site in Saskatoon, and whether the City of Saskatoon has any role to play in the decision making process".

A safe consumption site is a place where drug users are able to consume substances under the supervision of a trained medical professional and have access to supports and services without the risk of prosecution. The Administration's understanding is that safe consumption sites are part of the Saskatchewan Health Authority's overall harm reduction strategy. At a safe consumption site, clients would also have access to education, testing and treatment for communicable diseases as well as referrals to health, counselling and addictions services and other supports.

Report

Zoning and Building Regulations

Under the current Zoning Bylaw No. 8770 (Zoning Bylaw), a safe consumption site would be considered a medical clinic. A medical clinic is defined in the Zoning Bylaw as "A building or part of a building where two or more members of the medical profession, dentists, chiropractors, osteopaths or occupational therapists provide diagnosis and

treatment to the general public without overnight accommodation and may include such uses as reception areas, offices, consultation rooms, x-ray facilities and minor operating rooms, providing that all such uses have access only from the interior of the building.”

A medical clinic is allowed in many of the zoning districts identified in the Zoning Bylaw. In any of the locations where a medical clinic would be permitted, a particular building may or may not require renovations to accommodate a medical clinic. If the building is already designed for that use, the City Administration would not see any applications for building or development permits, and the clinic would be permitted to operate. If however, the building did require building renovations or modification to change to allow for the medical clinic, then the City would receive a building and development permit request. The Administration would review the request and as long as the request meets both building code and zoning regulations, the Administration would approve the request.

Saskatoon Fire Department

Late 2016 through 2017, SFD was involved in a group looking to co-locate services related to an injection site. SFD provides heat-map data showing sharps retrieval and continues to work with stakeholders such as Needle Safe Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Health Authority, and community outreach groups.

Since March 2018, SFD has been part of the Community Safety and Well-Being Partnership Group – Safe Community Action Alliance focusing on two priorities; Crystal Meth and Housing.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

There was no public or stakeholder involvement with this report

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no options, policy, privacy, financial, environmental or CPTED implications or considerations; a communications plan not required at this time.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

No specific follow up is required.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Report Approval

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