

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Colleen Christopherson-Cote - Community Benefit Coalition - SPRP - Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Private Partner Procurement Approach - CK 4130-14
Attachments: DEED RFP letter Jan 26 2024.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 2:08 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Communication - Colleen Christopherson-Cote - Community Benefit Coalition - SPRP - Downtown Event and Entertainment District – Private Partner Procurement Approach - CK 4130-14

--- Replies to this email will go to SPRPcoordinator@gmail.com ---

Submitted on Monday, January 29, 2024 - 14:06

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, January 29, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Colleen

Last Name: Christopherson-Cote

Phone Number : [13064918502](tel:13064918502)

Email: SPRPcoordinator@gmail.com

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: █████ Pohorecky Cove Saskatoon SK

Ward: Ward 10

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Community Benefit Coalition - SPRP

What do you wish to do ?: Available to answer questions only

If speaking will you be attending in person or remotely: Remotely

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Council

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Downtown Event & Entertainment District

Comments:

Please find attached a letter pertaining to the RFP for the DEED development and operations. I am available online for questions should council have points for clarification.

Attachments:

- [DEED RFP letter Jan 26 2024.pdf](#)99.76 KB

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No

January 26, 2024

Dear Saskatoon City Council,

I'm writing on behalf of the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership's (SPRP) Community Benefit Coalition to respond to agenda item 9.5.1 DEED2023-01, including the option presented as potential amendment to the GPC report and the original Admin Report regarding the Private Partner Procurement Approach.

The Community Benefit Coalition team is grateful for the opportunity to inform the process and work collaboratively with the City of Saskatoon administration team to think critically and innovatively about the next steps for this community project. We are also excited about the future opportunities that will come as the work unfolds.

The Coalition team is in favour of the amended language included in the GPC committee report as follows:

"Strategy for creating and sustaining good jobs and wages (e.g., benefits, policies to support employee well-being, career development and advancement strategies, strategies to ensure wages are competitive with cost of living)."

We believe that embedding specific language about competitive wages, good-paying jobs, and opportunities for prosperity in the evaluation criteria for this RFP will ensure that it's not an afterthought for bidders. Further, it will ensure that clear, transparent evaluation terms are provided to prospective proponents.

The Coalition team would like to take this time to recommend an additional point of transparency and clarification regarding the evaluation criteria for the RFP. While asking the prospective bidders to provide a strategy and plan for critical elements like workforce diversity, equity, inclusion, fair wages and community benefits is a step in the right direction, it doesn't provide the City with critical information on the proponents' capabilities in implementing the proposed community benefit outcome plans/strategies.

The Coalition team would like to request that the Council consider including language within the "Partnership Approach"¹ section of the evaluation criteria in the RFP that requires bid proponents to provide clear examples of how they have successfully implemented community benefit plans/strategies in prior projects. This inclusion serves as a disclosure mechanism and

¹ "1. Partnership Approach (30%)

The Partnership Approach will be evaluated based on the respondent plans to provide venue management services for one or both of the venues including:

- *Details on how the respondent will be compensated;*
- *Plan for community benefit outcomes, including elements such as: Strategy and plan for inclusion of workforce diversity and development targeting under-represented groups (i.e., women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, new immigrants, 2SLGBTQ+ community members, and visible minorities);"*

allows decision-makers, such as the City of Saskatoon administration, to comprehensively assess proponents' past efforts and capabilities in implementing community benefit outcome plans/strategies.

The Coalition would suggest the following language for bullet #2 in the Partnership Approach evaluation criteria:

- Strategy for community benefit outcomes, including elements such as: Strategy and plan for inclusion of workforce diversity and development targeting under-represented groups (i.e., women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, new immigrants, 2SLGBTQ+ community members, and visible minorities);” **AND,**
- **An outline of previous experience developing, implementing and evaluating community benefit outcomes in other projects**

The Community Benefit Coalition would like to take this time to thank the Council and the City of Saskatoon administration for its willingness to engage in innovative work that aims to integrate community benefit content into new developments. We applaud the Council for considering the work in this way, and hope that as the project moves forward, community benefits will be a core part of the pathway.

Please also note, that we are willing to provide expertise and insights to the Council at the meeting, through the online access portal, should there be any questions or requests for clarification about any of the Coalition team's concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Colleen Christopherson-Cote
Community Benefits Coalition
Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership (SPRP)
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SPRPcoordinator@gmail.com