Web Hosting of the Pledge Project

Recommendation
That the report of the Acting General Manager, Corporate Performance Department dated June 11, 2018, be received as information.

Topic and Purpose
The Information Technology division has obtained permission to facilitate the website hosting for the Pledge Project. This enables strategic business partnership relationships within the city, but also fosters the relationship with external entities across the city.

Report Highlights
1.   The Pledge Project is an online project that invites people to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.
2.   The Pledge Project Committee has engaged with a number of partners and supporters who have already committed to use this website as a tool to measure and deepen their community's engagement with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Strategic Goals
Hosting the Pledge Project website directly ties to the City's Quality of Life strategic goal by creating a partnership that strengthens relations with local Aboriginal organizations as well as develops partnerships and programs with Aboriginal organizations that will assist in enhancing economic, employment and training opportunities.

This initiative contributes to the success of our community investment in relation to the success criteria in the number of programs implemented that support the Aboriginal community.

Background
The Director of Aboriginal Relations, Gilles Dorval, sits on the Pledge Project Committee as the City's representative. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Dorval approached the Information Technology division to provide support to the development of the Pledge Project website.

Report
The Pledge Project is an online project developed through Reconciliation Saskatoon that invites people to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action by making tangible commitments. The ConnectR website is an interactive and engaging platform outlining specific actions that people can take and provides an entry point for the journey of reconciliation. The purpose of this site is to collect content; it will be a repository of stories for the long term and Phase 0 will be

non-transactional. (See Attachment 1, Reconciliation Saskatoon – Digital Online Project 2018 - Phases and Functionality.)

The Pledge Project Committee has engaged with a number of partners and supporters who have already committed to use this website as a tool to measure and deepen their community's engagement with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Those partners include Reconciliation Saskatoon, University of Saskatchewan, City of Saskatoon, International Indigenous Speakers Bureau and Saskatoon Public Library. Businesses and organizations can "Take the Pledge" and deepen their understanding of Aboriginal culture and history, a necessary first step towards generating more Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal partnerships.

The development of the website will take a phased approach, with the initial web presence targeted for late June, 2018. In the following year, the website will become more interactive and content rich. Creative Fire was engaged by the Pledge Committee to design and brand the site:

- Creative Fire is creating a WordPress site for BeAconnectR.org.
- Creative Fire will be using standard WordPress CMS, DB, themes and plugins – no custom written plugins or anything else.
- Videos will be hosted on YouTube.
- PDFs will be within WordPress CMS.

The City of Saskatoon will create the area, give Creative Fire's developers access and Creative Fire will control the security and provide maintenance and support for the website.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement
The Pledge Project Committee holds the accountability for public and stakeholder involvement in the website launch and development.

The Aboriginal Relations division is involved as a member of the Committee, and the Information Technology division is involved in the facilitation of the website hosting.

Communication Plan
External communications are the responsibility of the Pledge Project Committee, which includes City of Saskatoon representation. Internally, a communications plan will be developed to assist in communicating the success of this partnership.

Policy Implications
In consultation with the City Solicitor's Office and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, a Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted to protect all parties and set out the obligations of each one.

Financial Implications

The Administration has chosen to pursue a "Software as a Service" (SaaS) solution. The Information Technology division would create the environment for the website to run in and a service from a third-party would create and host a WordPress environment. Security and backups would be handled by WordPress plugins with the users being involved in more of the management.

Annual costs are estimated to be $1,600 and there are sufficient operating budgets currently available for this initiative within Corporate Support Service Line.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no options, policy, environmental, Privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations.

Council priorities are as follows:

- City Council will work with business organizations, the University, the Indigenous Community, and the Immigrant community to identify strategic economic opportunity and foster investment.
- City Council is prioritizing work to foster an inclusive community and charting a new path of partnership and mutual cooperation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- Fostering a more integrated and effective system of services in response to crime and community well-being is a priority for this Council.
- City Council will work with engaged leaders in government, community organizations, business, and community to foster a more coordinated approach to community safety and well-being.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

Initial phase, as outlined in Attachment 1, to be implemented June 21, 2018. Subsequent phase to occur in 2019.

Public Notice

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

Attachment

1. Reconciliation Saskatoon – Digital Online Project 2018 - Phases and Functionality

Report Approval

Written by: Sharon Beaman, Training and Change Coordinator, IT
Reviewed by: Paul Ottmann, Director of Information Technology
                    Gilles Dorval, Director of Aboriginal Relations
Approved by: Dan Willems, Acting General Manager, Corporate Performance
                    Department

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