



CITY OF HAMILTON
COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 7, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Presentation of the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan, developed as part of the Neighbourhood Action Strategy (CES16009) (Ward 8)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 8
PREPARED BY:	Jocelyn Strutt (905) 546-2424 ext. 5702
SUBMITTED BY:	Joe-Anne Priel General Manager Community & Emergency Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan, attached as Appendix A to Report CES16009 be endorsed;
- (b) That the completed Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan, attached as Appendix A to Report CES16009 be distributed to and reviewed by City of Hamilton staff and Neighbourhood Action Strategy Partners to determine suitable actions to assist in the implementation of the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan;
- (c) That staff be directed to report back to the Emergency & Community Services committee on implementation measures (including cost and resource implications) that will be undertaken by the City of Hamilton to support the implementation of resident-championed actions contained in the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan, attached as Appendix A to Report CES16009; and,
- (d) That \$30,000 from the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Fund (Project ID#20551255204) be allocated to support a community consultation and construction process for a new path through the forest in Captain Cornelius Park.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Neighbourhood Action Strategy provides the framework for the integration of neighbourhood work that not only ensures the effective and efficient delivery of service at a neighbourhood level, but will assist the City in creating a stronger working relationship with residents and key stakeholders across our neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Action Plans provide a work plan for improving the health and well-being of residents in Hamilton neighbourhoods. The Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan represents the eleventh plan supported through the Neighbourhood Action Strategy. This resident-led, asset-based plan reflects the issues that are most relevant and important to Rolston residents. Key themes of the Action Plan include: equality and inclusiveness; increased and improved culture, recreation and community opportunities; neighbourhood health and safety; increased community connectedness and cohesiveness through improved communication tools and neighbourhood events; and, strengthened services and economic opportunities for residents.

The implementation of the actions established within the Plan will be reviewed by the City, community partners as well as Rolston residents and stakeholders to determine suitable implementation measures and responsibility. The City will work with the Rolston neighbourhood, its planning team and all partners in defining:

- (a) what action(s) will require municipal leadership and investment;
- (b) what action(s) will be led by a resident or resident group; and,
- (c) what action(s) will be led by community partners.

To support the implementation of a path through the forest in Captain Cornelius Park, identified as a priority action for the community (Action D 3.2 in the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan), a project submission was developed and submitted to the Health Kids Community Challenge Fund administered by Public Health Services (BOH14007(a)). The project submission was successful and \$50,000 was awarded, which represents the preliminary estimate of the construction cost of the path. To support the resident-initiated action, \$30,000 from the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Fund will be used to undertake a community consultation and design exercise, with the ultimate goal leading to the construction of a path through the forested area in Captain Cornelius Park.

For all other actions identified in the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan and brought forward by a resident champion, beyond the Rolston path outlined above, any City of Hamilton implementation measures (including cost and resource implications) will be presented to the Emergency & Community Services committee for approval.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial:

With the exception of the Rolston Path, there are no financial implications with the endorsement of the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan.

With respect to the Rolston Path, the total financial implication is \$80,000. Funding from the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Fund (project ID#20551255204) in the amount of

\$30,000 and funding from the Healthy Kids Community Challenge Grant in the amount of \$50,000 will be used in the design, community consultation and construction of the Rolston path.

With the approval of recommendation (c) of this report, the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Fund will have \$119,000 remaining.

Staffing:

There are no staffing implications associated with Report CES16009.

Legal:

There are no legal implications associated with Report CES16009.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Neighbourhood Action Strategy was established in 2010 as a collaborative partnership between the Hamilton Community Foundation, City of Hamilton, Best Start Network and eleven Hamilton neighbourhoods with the goal of creating vibrant, healthy and inclusive neighbourhoods. One of the tools used to focus the work of residents and partners was the development of resident-led, asset-based plans that reflected the issues most relevant and pressing to the residents that live in each neighbourhood. The Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan represents the eleventh action plan.

The development of the Rolston Planning Team was initiated and facilitated by the Community Developer. Engagement began with a focus on children and youth. Through two Photovoice projects, students and youth in the Rolston neighbourhood investigated the assets and needs in the community by conducting group walkabouts, taking pictures and leading discussions. The Community Developer also attended events and met with agencies and organizations within the neighbourhood to gather contacts and information. A movie and family fun night, hosted by the Ward 8 Councillor, in September of 2014 raised community awareness for the upcoming planning activities. In the fall of 2014, the planning team was established. A chronology of planning team meetings and related engagement events can be found in the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan. This “boots on the ground” approach to community development raised awareness of the future planning process and was integral to the creation of the Neighbourhood Action Plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Community participation, discussions and engagement was critical in the development of the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan. The following opportunities were provided to engage residents and City staff in the development of the plan:

Photovoice: Is a way of investigating the assets and needs in the community using group walkabouts, discussions and photographs. Facilitated by the Community Developer, engagement in Rolston began with children and youth through Photovoice. In May 2012, students from Annunciation of our Lord Catholic Elementary School and youth from the Montcalm Community, supported through the Immigrant Women's Centre (now known as the Immigrant Working Centre) created a Photovoice project. In the winter of 2014, students from Westview Middle School also participated in a Photovoice project, the results of which were presented to Hamilton City Council on May 21, 2014. Comments received through the Photovoice project helped inform the development of the goals and actions contained in the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan.

The Rolston Planning Team: made up of residents, engaged the community over 14 months in the development of the plan. Eighteen planning team meetings were held and the community was engaged at four separate venues over eight different days. At one event alone, over 500 residents attended and provided their input and feedback on the Rolston vision, goals and areas of focus for the action plan.

Staff from Planning and Economic Development – Community Planning Section supported the development of the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan.

Staff from Public Works – Forestry and Horticulture, Public Health Services – Chronic Disease Prevention and Corporate Services – Finance and Administration were consulted on Recommendation C contained in Report CES16009 and remain engaged in implementation of the Rolston Path.

The Ward 8 Councillor's office was also consulted.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Hamilton's neighbourhoods each have tremendous assets as well as real barriers to being healthy, vibrant communities. Transforming good neighbourhoods into great neighbourhoods begins with a plan; and a great plan is one which is developed and owned by residents and supported by the wider community. By engaging people who live, work, play and learn within a neighbourhood, residents are able to identify, plan and lead the changes they want to see, thereby improving neighbourhood health and well-being.

Located on Hamilton mountain, the Rolston neighbourhood is bounded by Mohawk Road West to the north, the Lincoln Alexander Parkway to the south, West 5th Street to the east and Garth Street to the west. As part of the city-supported planning process, the Rolston Planning Team proposed to extend the boundaries of the neighbourhood eastward to include Upper James Street. The area between West 5th Street and Upper James Street is known as the Yeoville Neighbourhood. As part of the engagement, this proposed extension was shown and received community support.

The actions outlined in this resident-led, asset-based plan reflect the issues that are most relevant and pressing to the residents who live in the Rolston (and Yeoville) neighbourhood. The Rolston Planning Team came together in October 2014 to build upon the assets of the community. The planning and community engagement strategy were built upon the foundation of engaged and dedicated residents wanting to make positive changes in their neighbourhood.

The goals, objectives and actions detailed in the plan were developed through an intensive planning process that was led by a core group of residents, facilitated by the Neighbourhood Action Strategy and the community developer, and which was supported by service providers. The community engagement events and information gathering activities were led by the planning team with support from the community developer and the Neighbourhood Action Strategy. The process engaged as many residents as possible in the development of actions that represent and meet needs within the neighbourhood. The actions are evidence of Rolston's desire to achieve their vision:

“Rolston is a vibrant, engaged, safe and welcoming neighbourhood that values collaboration and celebrates diversity. We are a community where healthy relationships, natural spaces and opportunities flourish.”

Key themes of the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan include: equality and inclusiveness; increased and improved culture, recreation and community opportunities; neighbourhood health and safety; increased community connectedness and cohesiveness through improved communication tools and neighbourhood events; and, strengthened services and economic opportunities for residents.

As part of the community consultation for the Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan, including the two Photovoice projects, the idea to formalize and naturalize a path through the forest woodlot in Captain Cornelius Park was identified as a priority by the planning team and the community. As part of the Healthy Kids Community Challenge (Report BOH14007(a)), a project request was submitted to Public Health – Chronic Disease Prevention in support of this project idea, under the theme of improving child health and physical activity levels. Staff were notified of our successful application in February 2016. In total, \$50,000 was awarded to this project. It is estimated that the design, community consultation and construction of the path through the forest in

Captain Cornelius Park would total approximately \$80,000. To support the implementation of this project, \$30,000 from the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Fund will be used to fund the difference between the grant and the estimated project cost.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Strategic Objective

- 1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.
- 1.6 Enhance Overall Sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental).

Strategic Priority #2

Valued & Sustainable Services

WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.

Strategic Objective

- 2.2 Improve the City's approach to engaging and informing citizens and stakeholders.

Strategic Priority #3

Leadership & Governance

WE work together to ensure we are a government that is respectful towards each other and that the community has confidence and trust in.

Strategic Objective

- 3.4 Enhance opportunities for administrative and operational efficiencies.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report CES16009: Rolston Neighbourhood Action Plan