



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members West Harbour Development Sub-Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 3, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	West Harbour Community Partnership – West Harbour City Building Action Campaign (PED17077) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Diedre Rozema
SUBMITTED BY:	Jason Thorne General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not Applicable.

Information:

In May 2015, City of Hamilton staff formalized the West Harbour Community Partnership with the Hamilton Community Foundation, Evergreen CityWorks and SvN (formerly planningAlliance). The partnership was initiated in response to the Michael Young Foundation's interest in supporting more progressive approaches to planning and community development in Hamilton and focused on enhancing the City's ongoing planning and development efforts in the West Harbour. The purpose of the West Harbour Community Partnership was to facilitate the implementation of City of Hamilton planning initiatives in the West Harbour by developing an open and transparent public engagement process while minimizing the impact of development on existing, lower-income households in the community.

A work plan was developed to outline the scope of work and deliverables expected from SvN and Evergreen CityWorks. Evergreen CityWorks was responsible for designing, testing, monitoring and evaluating the impact of a City-led community engagement process in the West Harbour. Reflective of the organization's belief in the positive impact of involving people directly in community engagement and design processes, Evergreen took a highly collaborative approach to their scope of work by involving

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**SUBJECT: West Harbour Community Partnership – West Harbour City Building
Action Campaign (PED17077) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 3**

community members and stakeholders in every step of the process from design to evaluation.

In November 2016, Evergreen CityWorks completed their work and presented a first draft of recommendations for input from the community and City staff. City staff have now received Evergreen CityWorks' final report and recommendations, attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED17077. The purpose of this staff report is to share the information with Council and to advise Council that this work is now complete. The information will be made available to the public and posted on the project webpage, Hamilton.ca/westharbour.

Based on Evergreen CityWorks' observations and recommendations, City staff has identified areas of the West Harbour community engagement program where development and improvement are possible. These areas include:

- The project webpage will be updated and improved in order to: streamline and simplify content; clarify the project scope and objectives; improve user friendliness; and make project-specific information easier to access. Improvements to the web page have been ongoing since January 2017 as new information is made available to the public and will continue throughout 2017. The City of Hamilton's web team has played a key role in identifying areas of improvement on the current web page and recommending and implementing innovative web tools to meet project needs.
- Focus on providing local residents with ongoing, accurate and up to date information is a high priority as the project begins a phase of more intensive construction and physical change in the area. Utilize existing communication tools (e.g. e-newsletter, storefront at 294 James Street North, social media, community partners' information sharing channels, project webpage, etc.) more strategically with this priority in mind and look for new opportunities to share information more broadly.
- Staff will prepare comprehensive community engagement plans prior to initiating projects and to provide structure and guidelines to community conversations about project decisions. The community engagement plans should describe: the scope of the issue at hand; items open for discussion with the community; how the community will be consulted; when consultation will end; and how community input will be incorporated into staff recommendations or decisions.
- Staff will provide community engagement support to any City divisions or delivery partners that are working on projects impacting the West Harbour area to ensure community engagement approaches are used consistently across all West Harbour projects.
- Increase diversity of community engagement opportunities and tools in order to share project information with more residents and to collect feedback from a broader representation of the entire city of Hamilton.

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The City of Hamilton's 2016-2025 Strategic Plan identifies Community Engagement & Participation as a corporate priority. Evergreen CityWorks' observations and recommendations demonstrate that the City's commitment to improving community engagement approaches and practices in the West Harbour has positively impacted residents, staff and decision makers. The West Harbour Waterfront Redevelopment project is an opportunity for City staff to continue to implement Strategic Plan priorities, as well as Hamilton's Public Engagement Charter and the Our Future Hamilton community vision.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report PED17077: West Harbour Community Engagement
Presentation

DR/sd