


INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	May 19, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2021 Grey Cup Update (PED18234(c)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Ryan McHugh (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2725
SUBMITTED BY:	Carrie Brooks-Joiner Director Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development
SIGNATURE:	

Discussion of Confidential Appendix “A” to Report PED18234(c) in closed session is subject to the following requirement(s) of the City of Hamilton’s Procedural By-law and the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001:

- A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.

RATIONALE FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

Appendix “A” to Report PED18234(c) is being considered in Closed Session as it contains details related to the confidential negotiation.

RATIONALE FOR MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY

Staff are recommending that Appendix “A” to Report PED18234(c) remain confidential to protect the competitiveness of current and future negotiations.

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Staff were directed to provide periodic updates on the status of the 2021 Grey Cup.

INFORMATION

In February of 2019, the Canadian Football League (CFL) announced that the 2021 Grey Cup would be held at Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

On August 17, 2020, the CFL announced the cancellation of the entire 2020 CFL season. This included the cancellation of the 2020 Grey Cup, which was to be held in Regina, Saskatchewan.

On November 20, 2020, the CFL released the schedule for the 2021 Grey Cup season. The season was to begin on June 10, 2021 and conclude with the Grey Cup on November 21, 2021 in Hamilton.

On April 21, 2021, the CFL announced the delay of the 2021 CFL season and Grey Cup, when it released the following statement:

“We will play CFL football in 2021.

Our revised target date to start our regular season is August 5. To facilitate a 14-game season, for our players, fans and partners, we are re-scheduling the Grey Cup to December 12 in Hamilton, Ontario.

I say “target date” because our plans are subject to the state of COVID-19 across the country. A so-called “third wave” in some provinces is forcing us today to postpone the start of our regular season, which had been scheduled for June 10.

So, what must be in place for us to kick off on August 5? Two things. 1. The approval of public health officials across the country of our plans for protecting the health of our players, coaches, and ultimately our fans, so a 2021 season is safe. 2. Permission from governments to host a significant number of fans in the stands, in a significant number of venues at the start of the season, and in the rest of our venues soon after that, so a 2021 season is financially tenable for our clubs.

The CFL depends on ticket revenue more than other professional sports leagues in North America. Fans in the stands account for at least half of our revenue. Our clubs already stand to suffer substantial financial losses this year. Playing without fans in the stands would dramatically increase those losses.

We are prepared to be creative as well as prudent. For example, if we are unable to host fans in the East because of COVID-19, we are prepared to start play in the West, provided eastern teams can return to their home provinces, and play in front of their fans, later in the season.

And we have contingency plans in place, should factors beyond our control delay the start of our season beyond August 5. The bottom line is we are optimistic we will have a season in 2021, culminating in a great Grey Cup.

Everyone who loves the CFL can help us and their communities. Please, when it is your turn, get vaccinated. And please follow your local public health guidelines on

measures including wearing a mask and social distancing.

To our players, fans and partners: thank you for your patience as well as your passion for our game. Thank you to all the frontline workers out there for all they're doing for all of us. We look forward to keeping you posted on our progress and to kicking off another great season of CFL football on August 5."

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" - Confidential 2021 Grey Cup Update

RM:ac