



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division
and
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Tourism and Culture Division
and
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Environmental Services Division

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	July 8, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	City of Hamilton Landmarks and Monuments Review (HSC21025/PED21149/PW21038) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Shelly Hill (905) 546-2424 Extension 4081 John Summers (905) 546-2424 Extension 1747 Cynthia Graham (905) 546-2424 Extension 2337
SUBMITTED BY:	Grace Mater Director, Human Services Integration Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	
SUBMITTED BY:	Carrie Brooks-Joiner Director, Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	
SUBMITTED BY:	Craig Murdoch Director, Environmental Services Division Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That staff undertake a Historical Review of City of Hamilton owned landmarks, including park and street names, to determine opportunities to honour the Indigenous community in accordance with the Urban Indigenous Strategy action

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.

item #12 and to contribute to the City of Hamilton's journey towards meaningful Reconciliation;

- (b) That the estimated project budget at an upset limit of \$75,000 to complete the initial historical landmarks review and facilitate the community consultation process, be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve (110046);
- (c) That the single source procurement to Nation FPG Inc., operating as First Peoples Group, pursuant to Procurement Policy 11 – Non-competitive Procurements, for the consultancy work to complete the historical landmarks review and community consultation be approved; and,
- (d) That staff report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee with next steps and recommendations following the completion of the Historical Review process.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Hamilton's Urban Indigenous Strategy identifies specific actions to be undertaken to ensure Indigenous contributions and experiences are honoured and commemorated. This includes exploring archives and other methods to shed light on untold histories and how Indigenous people and histories are visibly represented in the City of Hamilton, including the context of the residential school system.

There is also growing national and local concern about monuments and representation of historic and cultural spaces that are not inclusive of Indigenous past and present, including the history of colonialism, and residential schools.

The purpose of this report is to inform and seek endorsement from Council to conduct a Historical Review that will identify short and long-term opportunities to address Indigenous and historical landmarks which includes statues and monuments, park and street names across the city.

Depending on the outcome and recommendations of the Historical Review there may be additional costs identified at a later date (e.g. relocation costs, development of interpretive content, providing additional signage to share an inclusive history, renaming and re-signing landmarks, additional landmarks, etc.). These costs will be identified and brought forward to Council following the Historical Review process.

Alternatives for Consideration – Page 6.

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Funding is required to engage a consultant to conduct the Historical Review, facilitate respectful dialogue and help to determine next steps.

The requested budget of \$75,000 is to be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve (110046).

Staffing: Participation in this project will be incorporated into existing staff's workplans. Dependent on the results of the initial phase of the Historical Review, additional resourcing needs may be required which will be brought forward to Council at a later date.

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In June 2019, the City of Hamilton released the Hamilton Urban Indigenous Strategy (UIS) which was endorsed by City Council through Report HSC19030. The UIS identifies actions and charts out a path to reconciliation that aims to strengthen the City's relationship with the Indigenous community. The strategy is intended to demonstrate respect for Indigenous knowledge and cultures and promote a better understanding among all residents about Indigenous histories, cultures, experiences and contributions.

As part of the implementation of the strategy, a staff team called the Indigenous Landmarks Working Group was developed in 2020 to provide information and review existing and new landmarks, spaces and markers that reflect the true history and disposition of the Indigenous community. This group will be part of a broader discussion which will include Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and community members who will contribute to deliverables that will include Public Art, Museums, Markers, Heritage and Land, addressing action items # 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22 of the UIS Strategy (<https://www.hamilton.ca/urban-indigenous-strategy>).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

In the Spring of 2015, City Council through GIC Report 15-008 committed to developing an Urban Indigenous Strategy that would identify actions and strengthen the City's relationship with the Indigenous community. This was in response to the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's Final Report and the calls to action within the municipality's jurisdiction.

The TRC summary reminds Canadians that “governments, churches, educational institutions, and Canadians from all walks of life are responsible for taking actions on reconciliation in meaningful ways, working collaboratively with Indigenous peoples”.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

As part of the ongoing Urban Indigenous Strategy engagement, preliminary conversations have taken place with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, the UIS Coordinating Circle and the Professional Aboriginal Advocacy Networking Group.

In addition, the following staff groups have been consulted and contributed to the report:

- City Manager’s Office, Communications and Community Initiatives sections
- Senior Leadership Team

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

Like many communities in Canada, there is growing local concern in Hamilton about colonial monuments and representation of historic and cultural spaces that are not inclusive of Indigenous past and present, including the history of colonialism, and residential schools.

The convergence of these concerns, and the implementation of the Urban Indigenous Strategy resulted in preliminary discussions being held between the UIS team and the Mayor’s office in early June 2020. Discussions focused on a proactive approach to addressing the broader movement to address systemic racism and colonialism with City owned landmarks. A cursory review of staff practices suggested that some individual projects had been completed and now there was an opportunity to coordinate a more comprehensive engagement process to address City owned landmarks, histories or education initiatives. This sparked ongoing conversations amongst City staff from the UIS team, Tourism and Culture Division, Environmental Services Division and Community Initiatives Section about how to ensure that the stories and messages of the Indigenous peoples are respectfully, meaningfully, and visibly represented in the public places and cultural institutions of the City. This staff team formed the Indigenous Landmarks Working Group, and this work is part of the implementation of the Urban Indigenous Strategy.

The discussions have also included how the City can support Reconciliation through engagement about Hamilton’s history and cultural representation in ways that are more representative, equitable, diverse and inclusive, that celebrate the history of Indigenous peoples, and reframe how we share the history of the City and the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississauga’s territories on which it is built.

In keeping with UIS action item #12 the project will undertake a Historical Review of City owned landmarks, including park and street names, with Indigenous interest in order to identify both short term and long-term opportunities and specific ways to honour the Indigenous community and the City's journey towards meaningful Reconciliation. The work involves:

1. developing a framework on the historical and commemoration of landmarks through a phased in approach with more detailed timelines
2. identifying geographical areas that are of historical and cultural significance to the Indigenous community
3. conducting a historical review based on the identified geographic areas which
 - identifies opportunities to better represent Indigenous contributions and history in City owned landmarks, parks, street names, trails/open spaces and facilities
 - identifies specific landmarks that are triggering in nature towards Indigenous people
 - develops recommendations on how to bring forward the City of Hamilton's true history through an Indigenous lens.

Through the Historical Review, staff will engage with the Indigenous community and the broader community in order to inform short and long-term opportunities to respectfully and meaningfully address both Indigenous and historical landmarks. This may include the addition of new landmarks and/or the moving or removal of, the re-interpretation of, and/or the renaming of landmarks, in order to support a more equitable, balanced, and inclusive representation of Indigenous histories, contributions in Hamilton, the history of colonialism and residential schools, and a spirit of reconciliation.

Staff has prepared initial reference documents including relevant local, national and international articles addressing colonial landmarks.

The proposed recommendation of Report HSC21025/PED21149/PW21038 is to engage an Indigenous consultant as a neutral third party to advise on best practices and conduct the Historical Review. In order to achieve the goals of this project, staff will seek to facilitate the development of a shared understanding of our city's history through ongoing dialogue about the lived experience, history and culture of Indigenous peoples

In order for the consultant to be successful and have credibility with the community, staff are specifically seeking an Indigenous consulting firm with previous experience in landmark and monument reviews and broad community engagement. First Peoples Group is an Indigenous owned and operated consulting firm with past experience completing a historical landmark review for the City of Kingston. They are able to bring forward Indigenous perspectives and history to the project. Staff have reviewed the proposed costing for this work and consider it to be reasonable and good value for the

level of experience and specific knowledge that First Peoples Group will bring to the project.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Council may decide not to approve the single source of the Nation FPG Inc., operating as First Peoples Group. Staff do not recommend this alternative as research did not identify other Indigenous consultants with the capacity and experience to complete this specific type of review. If the recommendation for single source procurement is not approved, a Request for Proposals will have to be issued which will delay the project significantly.

The financial impacts are comparable to the recommendation of Report HCS21025/PED21149/PW21038. There are no legal implications with this alternative.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A