

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

Council: December 13, 2023

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. KROETSCH.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR .....**

### **Accessibility Investment in Bennetto Community Centre Auditorium (Ward 2)**

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton owned recreation facilities in Ward 2 are maintained by the City of Hamilton's Corporate Facilities & Energy Management Division, Public Works, and operated by the Recreation Division;

WHEREAS, the Bennetto Community Centre Auditorium with its purpose-built stage and bench seating is a unique asset within the Recreation portfolio with the capacity to seat one hundred and fifty people and provide a performance atmosphere for arts and music as well as accommodate public engagement and presentation space;

WHEREAS, the 2022-2023 Council Priorities were developed to reflect Hamilton's most pressing needs and biggest opportunities and, increased access to recreational facilities and services is a measure of success in achieving the outcome of providing vibrant parks, recreation and public spaces;

WHEREAS, the Recreation Master Plan (2022) guiding principles are the foundation for recommendations to inform future decisions related to its implementation and, equity and inclusion, and high-quality facilities and services are identified as two of these five guiding principles;

WHEREAS, the Bennetto Community Centre is identified as highly accessible in common areas excluding the auditorium which is accessed by staircase and not inclusive for individuals experiencing mobility considerations;

WHEREAS, the Bennetto Community Centre is a high use, year-round facility and the enhancement of the auditorium to accommodate users with mobility considerations, will draw more users to the space and create a more welcoming and inclusive environment for the community;

WHEREAS, Public Works staff will engage an Architect to provide an accessibility improvement design that takes into consideration adequate egress for fire code and the cost of any structural modifications needed as a result, and in the interim, staff have provided a preliminary high level estimate of costs; and

WHEREAS, improvements to audio and visual equipment and stage curtains for the stage need to be addressed and should be scheduled to be completed while accommodation work is being undertaken to minimize facility impacts and maximize available funding;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Public Works staff be authorized and directed to retain a Prime Design Consultant to undertake detailed design and construction of an accessibility solution for the Bennetto Community Centre Auditorium to provide access for users with mobility considerations;
- (b) That the funding for the Bennetto Community Centre Auditorium audio/visual upgrades, stage curtains and accessibility improvements, including any contingency costs, up to a maximum of \$700,000, be approved and be funded from the Ward 2 Capital Re-Investment Reserve (108052); and
- (c) That staff be directed to report back to Public Works Committee with a revised option for a funding contribution to this project to further off-set costs, should opportunities for contributory funding through applicable approved capital accessibility programs be made available before construction is completed; and
- (d) That the General Manager, Public Works Department be authorized and directed to execute any required agreement(s) and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.