

CITY OF HAMILTON

M O T I O N

Emergency and Community Services Committee: May 16, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. Kroetsch
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Use of the Bridgeworks Facility for City Staff and the Central Neighbourhood Association, 200 Caroline St. N., Hamilton (Ward 2):

WHEREAS, the City is the owner of the renovated building located at 200 Caroline Street North, comprising of 13,450 square feet, with the purpose of creating the Barton Community Hub (Community Hub);

WHEREAS, the City required and sought an operator for the Community Hub in accordance with the Request for Proposals, Contract No. C11-2.3-19;

WHEREAS, Sonic Unyon Records Ltd. (Sonic Unyon) submitted an acceptable proposal pursuant to the RFP and entered into an "Operating Agreement" with the City, naming the facility Bridgeworks;

WHEREAS, Sonic Unyon is an incorporated not-for-profit organization that presents year round multi-art events culminating in the annual Supercrawl festival on James Street in Hamilton, Ontario;

WHEREAS, Sonic Unyon's programming direction is diverse and encompasses a variety of artistic practices and genres, incorporating a strong locally derived program of artists and musicians, one unprecedented in comparison to other events in this region;

WHEREAS, Sonic Unyon is a locally owned, operating in the arts and entertainment space for over twenty-five (25) years in the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, Sonic Unyon was granted funding from the Canadian Cultural Spaces Fund providing investment capital into Bridgeworks and subsequently received a 10 year extension on the operating agreement, expiring on the 31st day of May, 2032;

WHEREAS, in the Terms of Reference of the operating agreement it states that the City reserves the right to book some or all the space for City business uses subject to availability and payment of the standard fees;

WHEREAS, the Operating Agreement speaks to the responsibilities of the operator, which includes actively and proactively maximizing the benefit of the Community Hub to the community by maximizing the usage of the Facility;

WHEREAS, both City Staff and the Central Neighbourhood Association are in need of free or low-cost access to space in Ward 2;

WHEREAS, Sonic Unyon is willing to accommodate free access for City Staff and the Central Neighbourhood Association with certain conditions;

WHEREAS, Availability of the space in the facility will work around Sonic Unyon's confirmed schedule to ensure it doesn't interfere with other programming;

WHEREAS, Requested dates should be planned in advance and preferably avoiding weekends;

WHEREAS, Only the fee for use of the space will be waived. Use of tech equipment will come at an additional cost and will be outlined in the amended agreement;

WHEREAS, Sonic Unyon will be incurring staffing costs to be at the facility so any free use of the space will need to be respectful of the start and end times of the booking, with additional fees being charged for unanticipated extra use in order to cover staffing costs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That City of Hamilton Recreation staff be directed to work with Sonic Unyon to amend the operating agreement for City Staff and the Central Neighbourhood Association to have free access to the space under specified conditions, and;
- (b) That the City's General Manager of Community Services be directed to execute said agreement in a form satisfactory with the City's Solicitor.