

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Mobile Vendors Association of Newfoundland – Downtown Pedestrian Mall Proposal

Date Prepared: April 28, 2021

Report To: Regular Meeting of Council

Councillor and Role: Councillor Debbie Hanlon, Tourism, Culture & Immigration

Ward: N/A

Decision/Direction Required: Council direction on the inclusion of mobile vendors in the Downtown Pedestrian Mall.

Discussion – Background and Current Status: A proposal by the Mobile Vendors Association of Newfoundland (MVAN) was submitted to Council and staff for review and consideration. It was proposed that the City of St. John’s permit four mobile vending units within the road closure of the Downtown Pedestrian Mall. These units would be stationed in the financial district of Water Street and would rotate vendors throughout the summer. Although this proposal requires very little from the City of St. John’s in terms of logistics/support, the Mobile Vending By-Law, section 8.2 prevents their inclusion as proposed.

- Mobile vending units which require power shall have their own power source, which power source shall be approved by the inspector. The use of generating units and electrical cords is prohibited.

Council has provided direction for staff to include one mobile vending unit within the Downtown Pedestrian Mall, in addition to the current lease holder on Water Street. This unit will be arranged through the MVAN, who will coordinate scheduling of suitable mobile vending units.

Feedback from Downtown businesses regarding the inclusion of Mobile Vending units in the Pedestrian Mall has been mixed. The proposal submitted by MVAN refers to many examples of how mobile vending can benefit the downtown economy and improve the overall atmosphere of the event.

Of the eight mobile vendors interested in participating in the Downtown Pedestrian Mall, only three do not require a generator or electrical hook up - two vendors operate using solar power, and one vendor does not require power. The other mobile vending units require 30 or 50 amps of power, for which there is no current source. After consultation with City electricians, the decorative pole lights within the downtown are not capable to handle such a load.

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Since the creation of current by-law, generators have evolved significantly. Current mobile units have built-in or ultra-quiet generators that could potentially be an acceptable solution for future. Research and a potential revision to the current by-law may be considered by Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: N/A
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: MVAN, Downtown Businesses
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: N/A
4. Legal or Policy Implications: Current Mobile Vending By-Law, prohibits the use of generators or electrical cords.
5. Privacy Implications: N/A
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: N/A
7. Human Resource Implications: N/A
8. Procurement Implications: N/A
9. Information Technology Implications: N/A
10. Other Implications: N/A

Recommendation:

That Council approve two food mobile vending units and two non-food mobile vending units, which do not require generators or electrical hook ups, within the Downtown Pedestrian Mall. These units would be managed by the Mobile Vending Association of NL. This would be in addition to the current lease holder on Water Street.

Prepared by: Christa Norman, Special Projects Coordinator

Approved by: Jennifer Langmead, Supervisor – Tourism and Events

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Mobile Vending Association - Downtown Pedestrian Mall.docx
Attachments:	- MVAN proposal Downtown Pedestrian Mall Combined.pdf - MOBILE VENDING IN ST. JOHN'S.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 28, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jennifer Langmead - Apr 28, 2021 - 11:54 AM

Tanya Haywood - Apr 28, 2021 - 2:54 PM