

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: H.G.R. Mews Community Centre Replacement Site Selection

Date Prepared: August 16, 2019

Report To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council

Councillor and Role: Councillor Jamie Korab, Ward 3 Representative
Councillor Maggie Burton – Planning and Development

Ward: 3

Decision/Direction Required:

To approve Mundy Pond Park as the site location for the new H.G.R. Mews Community Centre Replacement.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

The City of St. John's is committed to the replacement of the H.G.R. Mews Community Centre as the existing facility is reaching the end of its serviceable life. Public engagement on programming for the replacement facility took place in Spring 2018. At that time the proposed location was the gravel parking lot across the street from the current facility. During the engagement process, concerns were raised about the loss of green space to facilitate parking requirements, as well as other issues including construction within a potential floodplain. A geotechnical investigation was undertaken in Fall 2018, as well as a floodplain analysis to determine whether the gravel parking lot was a suitable location from a constructability perspective. The results of the geotechnical study indicated that the site was a viable option for construction and the floodplain analysis indicated that the site was not within the floodplain boundary or the 15 metre buffer zone.

While the gravel parking lot site was not excluded from consideration, the City evaluated an alternate location in the area based on feedback from the engagement sessions. A new site location, Mundy Pond Park, was identified in the Fall 2018. A geotechnical investigation of the alternate location took place in Spring 2019. The results of the geotechnical investigation indicated that the site was a viable option for construction of a new facility. Additionally, the previous floodplain analysis undertaken also indicated that the site was not located within the floodplain boundary or the 15 metre buffer zone. Public engagement on the Mundy Pond Park location took place on July 30, 2019 and a What We Heard document has been created and is attached as an appendix to this document.

A third location, 50 Mundy Pond Road was also evaluated as a potential option for the replacement of the H.G.R. Mews Community Centre.

After careful consideration of all three site locations, and an evaluation of a number of criteria including: fiscal responsibility, corporate social responsibility, inclusion, accessibility and



universal design, environmental sustainability, climate change and asset resiliency, health and safety, land acquisition, public engagement and alignment with the corporate strategic plan, Mundy Pond Park has emerged as the site location that promotes the current and future vision of recreation amenities for the City of St. John's. Mundy Pond Park will become a recreational hub where families can come and enjoy the many amenities co-located in one convenient location, making it a destination for recreational activities for people of all ages and abilities.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications:
There are no budget or financial implications in selecting Mundy Pond Park as the location for the new H.G.R. Mews Community Centre.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:
Provincial Government, Boys and Girls Club, CN Pensioner's Club, Mundy Pond Softball Association, Mile Zero Ultimate Frisbee, Mundy Pond Regatta, St. John's Soccer Association
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:
The selection of Mundy Pond Park as the site location for the new H.G.R. Mews Community Centre aligns with the strategic directions of A Sustainable City, A City that Moves, A Connected City and An Effective City.
4. Legal or Policy Implications:
Not Applicable
5. Privacy Implications:
Not Applicable
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:
Public engagement and communication have taken place for both sites proposed by the City of St. John's. A What We Heard document has been created for both engagement sessions held by the City, and the documents are available to the public for review on the Engage St. John's webpage.
7. Human Resource Implications:
Not Applicable

8. Procurement Implications:
Not Applicable

9. Information Technology Implications:
Not Applicable

10. Other Implications:
Not Applicable

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Council approve Mundy Pond Park as the future site location of the H.G.R. Mews Community Centre Replacement.

Prepared by/Signature:

Tonya Knopp, P. Eng. – Manager, Facility Engineering

Signature: _____

Reviewed by/Signature:

Scott Winsor, P. Eng., Director, Engineering

Signature: _____

Approved by/Date/Signature:

Jason Sinyard, P. Eng., MBA, Deputy City Manager -
Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services

Signature: _____

TK/dlm

Attachments: