

Flour Mill Silos Projection Lighting Display

Presented To:	Finance and Administration Committee
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Recommended by:	General Manager of Corporate Services

Report Summary

This report provides a recommendation regarding a proposed project involving the Flour Mill Silos.

Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to prepare a business case for the 2022 Budget, as outlined in the report entitled “Flour Mill Silos Projection Lighting Display”, from the General Manager of Corporate Services, presented at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting on August 17, 2021.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to operational matters and has no direct connection to the Community Energy & Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications with this report.

Background

In June 2019, the Flour Mill Business Improvement Association (FM-BIA) and Flour Mill Community Access Network group (FM-CAN) approached City staff in regards to celebrating the 111-year anniversary of the Grain Silos through a display lighting project in 2022. The intent is to project a static display onto each of the four sides of the Silos using equipment mounted on nearby structures.

The equipment needs to be mounted a minimum of 8m from the Silos, and the Group has been in discussion with the neighbouring property owners to mount the equipment on their structures. The FM-CAN has not secured funding; however, they intend to apply for funding of the project in 2021 from upper levels of Government. The Group requested that the City fund and complete the site preparation in 2021.

Heritage Designation and Silo Condition

The City of Greater Sudbury's Heritage Register includes properties that are either Designated or Listed heritage sites under the Ontario Heritage Act. These sites have special protections when it comes to development. Specifically, Designated Sites are:

- Regulated by a municipal by-law that lists heritage elements and attributes of the property that are to be preserved and,
- Protected from demolition or incompatible alterations to significant heritage features

In 1989, the Flour Mill Silos were designated Heritage under the City's Heritage Register through By-Law 89-147.

The request to project images onto the Silo structure requires Council approval as this is a Designated Heritage site and any alterations are strictly regulated through the Heritage Act.

The Silos have seen limited maintenance and/or capital investment over recent decades. As a result, the Silos have deteriorated and weather is beginning to undermine the structural components of the Silos along with the facade. City staff engaged the services of a structural engineer to ascertain the extent of work required to bring the Silos to a state of good repair. The Engineer's report identifies a number of treatments that are required in the near future. City staff will be submitting a request for this capital work via the 2022 Capital Budget prioritization process.

The project proposed by the FM-BIA and FM-Can is not contingent on these capital repairs taking place. In discussions with Science North staff, FM-BIA and the FM-CAN, the projectors will be mounted on nearby structures and the silos will act as a canvas. City staff were advised that imperfections in the Silo's façade would not affect the overall visual appeal of the projection.

However, to enable the project to go forward, the site will require some work. The proposed display lighting work requires electrical & internet connections, the site be cleaned up with removal of trees & vegetation, repairs & reworking supports for the fencing, repairs & sealing off access to crawlspace, removal & scaling of loose concrete & bricks at height.

The FM-BIA and FM-CAN will coordinate and pay for the electrical and internet connections. The FM-CAN has reviewed the possibility of power supply with GSU, and determined that it may be possible to use power from the pedestrian lighting poles. The display system requires internet to broadcast the image to the projectors, and the projectors require a clean line of sight to the faces of the silos. Internet is not at the site, but the FM-CAN has discussed with one of the neighbouring property owners for use of their internet.

Funding

In order to complete the site preparation as described above, funding is required and staff are seeking direction to develop a business case for consideration in the 2022 budget.

Conclusion

The FM-CAN and FM-BIA would like to celebrate the historical significance of the Flour Mill Silos in 2022 via a partnership with Science North. The project consists of still images projected onto each of the four sides of the silos. In order to facilitate this, the site requires some cleanup work to be performed by the City. Staff are seeking direction to develop a business case for consideration in the 2022 budget.