
TO: Mayor J. Lehman and Members of Council

FROM: R. K. Sutton, P. Eng., Director of Engineering

NOTED: R. J. Forward, MBA, M.Sc., P. Eng., General Manager of Infrastructure & Growth Management
C. Ladd, Chief Administrative Officer

RE: Construction of the Military Heritage Park
(File: R04-MI)

DATE: June 5, 2017

Purpose and Background

The purpose of this memo is to correct and supplement the information provided in the May 29, 2017 Capital Status Report (CSR) to General Committee (FIN014-17) with respect to a funding request for the Military Heritage Park.

The Military Heritage Park will reflect the City of Barrie's military history, and its relationship with CFB Borden, through the creation of landforms that symbolically reference locations in the world where military campaigns were held. The park will be divided into a series of passive landscapes that will act as a self-guided, educational experience. The Military Heritage Park will also contain decorative panels and future interpretative signage and art installations which will allow the park to be integrated into the City's new Heritage Trail system.

The City was successful in receiving \$572,440 in funding from the Government of Canada via the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (CIP 150) towards the establishment of the Military Heritage Park. Projects funded through the CIP 150 must meet a March 31, 2018 substantial completion date.

The recently closed tender for the construction of the Military Heritage Park calls for substantial completion by October 2017. In addition, it is currently intended that the Military Heritage Park will be part of the Illuminate Barrie Festival to celebrate Canada 150 on the Labour Day weekend; as such, staff and the contractor will be working diligently to have the park open from the entrance feature to the ceremonial square for the public unveiling.

Tender and Budget

Tenders recently closed for this project and the tender prices came in higher than the original budget. To clarify, the comment in the CSR related to the funds being required to accelerate the project, should not have been included in the report, as the prices were higher than the budget due to some of the unique design features of the park, including the curved specialty walls that are integral to the vision of the park. These nonconventional items are often challenging to estimate and the tender price for the specialty walls resulted in a discrepancy of over \$250k between the consultant's estimate and the bidder's submission.

Fund Allocation

As part of the spring CSR, a request for additional funds in the amount of \$311,081 was made in order to complete the project as tendered. Upon further review, staff are recommending utilizing Cash in Lieu of Parkland Reserve to cover this request. In addition, staff will continue to work with the contractor to find savings during construction, including possible innovative ways to reduce the cost of the foundations with respect to the curved specialty walls. The results of any realized savings will be reported in the fall CSR upon the successful completion of this project ahead of the March 31, 2018 CIP 150 deadline.

If there are any questions, please contact Robert Sutton at extension 4551 or by email Robert.Sutton@barrie.ca