SUBJECT: Ontario’s Main Street Revitalization Initiative Funding Agreement

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: City Manager's Office

Report Number: CM-10-18
Wards Affected: 2
File Numbers: 155-03-1
Date to Committee: May 7, 2018
Date to Council: May 22, 2018

Recommendation:

Approve the enabling by-law attached as Appendix A to city manager’s office report CM-10-18 authorizing the execution of a municipal funding agreement for the transfer of the Main Street Revitalization Initiatives funds between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the City of Burlington; and

Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the municipal funding agreement and any related documents, subject to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor.

Purpose:

A City that Grows
• Promoting Economic Growth

A Healthy and Greener City
• Healthy Lifestyles
• Community Building through Arts and Culture via Community Activities

Background and Discussion:

In January the Province of Ontario announced the Main Street Revitalization Initiative. This program is being administered by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and is intended to help municipalities throughout the province enhance and
revitalize their downtowns and main streets. The funding in this program will follow a model similar to the Federal Gas Tax Fund, so there is no application process. Municipalities receive a funding allotment based on population, using data from the 2016 Statistics Canada Census of Population. Burlington’s allotment is $191,757.80. Municipalities can decide to fund 100 per cent of the total project costs with the Main Street dollars and have up until March 31, 2020 to spend the funds on an eligible project.

Strategy/process
The projects eligible for this funding can be in one or both of these categories:

- Implementation of priority identified in an existing community improvement plan i.e. improvement of community energy efficiency, accessibility enhancements or
- Funding of strategic municipal physical infrastructure i.e. signage, streetscaping and landscape improvements.

Options considered
The City of Burlington has identified the revitalization of civic square as our potential project for this funding. Civic square revitalization is identified in the city’s Strategic Plan, the 2016 Burlington Accessibility Standards, Core Commitment and will be included in the Downtown Streetscape Guidelines.

With an increase in urban intensification and limited urban park land, there is a need to revitalize this public space to meet current and future demands. Although the existing configuration of civic square supports many uses, including special events, civic functions and casual use, the space is not optimized and does have some limitations. Most of the existing infrastructure has or is reaching its end of life and does not meet current accessibility standards.

Once complete a redesign of civic square would provide a direct relationship to both Brant Street and the newly built Elgin Promenade.

The Main Street program guidelines do allow municipalities to identify a different project for the funds prior to the end of the program in March 2020.

Financial Matters:

Total Financial Impact
At this point staff are determining the scope of the work and will be developing a budget.
Source of Funding

City of Burlington report PB-33-18, outlines a series of recommended Section 37 benefits for 421-431 Brant Street. The benefits include a $50,000 contribution from the developer towards the future expansion of civic square. At the time of writing this report, neither the Planning and Development Committee nor Council had considered PB-33-18 yet.

The program gives municipalities up until March 2020 to spend the funds. This timing will allow staff to include any requests for additional funds, that may be required to complete the project, in the 2019 Capital Budget process.

Connections:

The Province of Ontario is investing up to $26 M in this Main Street Revitalization Initiative. The funding is from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Public Engagement Matters:

This is a very popular and well used public space so an important aspect of the revitalization project will be engagement with the various stakeholders that make use of the space i.e. residents, BAAC, Festivals and Events, etc.

Conclusion:

Ontario’s Main Street Revitalization Initiative is a welcome funding source for municipalities throughout the province. Staff request that Council approve the enabling by-law that will allow us to enter into the necessary agreement with AMO.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Walihura
Government Relations Specialist
905-335-7600, ext. 7895
Appendices:

A. Enabling by-law

Notifications:

Pat Vanini, Executive Director, AMO, pvanini@amo.on.ca

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.