

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: July 10, 2023
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Anne Berry, Director, Planning & Development Services
SUBJECT: 2022 – 2023 Daytime Warming Centre Summary Report

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the report dated July 10, 2023, from the Director of Planning & Development Services, titled “2022-2023 Daytime Warming Centre Summary Report,” for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the five month operational period of the City’s Emergency Daytime Warming Centre for the 2022-2023 winter season.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

| Motion # & Meeting Date | Motion Details |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 2022-364 September 20, 2022 | THAT Council: 1. Affirm single sourcing and authorize the awarding of a contract for services to Engaged Communities Canada Societies for the operation of a daytime warming shelter and associated services for the period of November 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, in the amount of \$450K; and 2. Authorize the preparation and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Engaged Communities Canada Societies for the period of November 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, for the operation of the daytime warming shelter. |
| 2022-423 October 17, 2022 | THAT Council receive the October 17, 2022, corporate report from the Director of Financial Services, titled “White Rock Financial Plan(2022-2026) Bylaw, 2022, No. 2428, Amendment No. 3, 2022, No. 2443”. |

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 2022-429 October 19, 2022 | THAT Council give final reading to "White Rock Financial Plan (2022-2026) Bylaw, 2022, No. 2428, Amendment No. 3, 2022, No. 2443" |
| 2022-450 December 5, 2022 | THAT Council direct staff to coordinate with Engaged Communities Canada Society so that the city's emergency daytime warming centre remains operational daily through to March 31, 2023, regardless of the daytime temperature. |

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a debrief following the winter 2022-2023 operations of the City's Emergency Daytime Warming Centre (the Centre). The Centre operated from November 2022 to the end of March 2023.

On September 20, 2022, Council authorized the awarding of a contract for services to Engaged Communities Canada Society (the Operator) for the operation of a temporary emergency daytime warming shelter (the Centre) (intended for those experiencing homelessness) during the period of November 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. On November 9, 2022, the Centre began its operations at Centennial Park for the winter 2022/2023 season, initially operating based on days where the outside temperature was at or below 0 degrees Celsius or felt like 0 degrees Celsius.

Following a closure between November 19, 2022 and November 28, 2022, at the Regular meeting of December 5, 2022 Council directed that the Centre remain open regardless of the daytime temperature, for the duration of the operation (to March 31, 2023).

Generally, the Centre operated as expected, and served a regular population with limited impact to other park and facility users. On occasion a Centre guest would find their way into one of the city buildings on site, however the Operator was always available to assist, and recreation management staff were able to reach the Operator directly whenever necessary.

Overall, the Centre experienced daily activity, often operating at capacity over the course of the day. Services offered by the Operator included light meals and snacks, bathroom facilities, addressing basic medical needs, family reunifications, connections to service providers, improved mental and physical well-being for Centre guests.

Extreme cold weather conditions impacted the use of the concession stand washrooms, and the Tow N'Go (portable washrooms). Repairs had to be made to both facilities due to frozen pipes. These costs were not anticipated based on the previous winter season's experience, but the budget was sufficient to cover these expenses. The ATCO trailer that operated as the Centre also experienced some water leaks due to the heavy snow load in January.

Repairs were needed to the City's plumbing system in the concession stand washroom due to foreign materials being flushed down the toilets, resulting in the need for repairs and additional deep cleanings. Following the repairs staff and the Operator agreed to shift guests to the Tow N'Go instead of the concession washrooms and Centre staff then used the concession stand washrooms. This decision rectified the issue.

The City received very few complaints to Bylaw Enforcement over the course of the operation of the Centre; however, Bylaw Enforcement staff stepped up patrols of the area and worked to discourage the set-up of any camps in the park. The RCMP also increased their presence in the area during this period, which helped to support Bylaws efforts.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total budget allocated for the winter 2022-2023 season was \$480,000. The operation of the Centre is within budget, at \$469,800, including the additional repairs needed as a result of the frozen pipes and the blockages. The budget was based on a \$320,000 grant from UBCM, and \$80,000 each from the City of Surrey and the City of White Rock. An invoice will be sent to the City of Surrey to recover their portion of the costs, approximately \$74,900.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The White Rock South Surrey Baseball Association have shared their concerns regarding the location of the site, particularly with the anticipated construction of a new year round indoor batting cage facility at the same location. This interface will need to be evaluated prior to decisions regarding the operation of a daytime warming Centre in the fall/winter 2023-24 extreme weather season, should Council wish to consider this location at Centennial Park again next year.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

Financial Services, Engineering and Operations, and the Recreation and Culture Departments are all involved in the operation of the Centre. Engineering and Operations were relied on during the extreme cold due to the frozen pipes, and blockages. They also assisted with the coordination of the facility set up and take down. Recreation and Culture staff were onsite contacts for deliveries and removal of the structures, as well as monitoring of the area and as a contact for site concerns. Bylaw Enforcement staff and RCMP also proactively monitored the area.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The operation of the 2022-2023 Emergency Daytime Warming Centre is in alignment with the following strategic priority of Council:

Plan for adverse weather impacts to protect community safety:

- Assess future location, annually seek to secure grant funding, and continue to partner with the City of Surrey to operate the Warming Centre each winter from November – March

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following options are available for Council's consideration:

1. Direct staff to report back with additional information as requested by Council.

CONCLUSION

This report is to provide Council with a debrief following the winter 2022-2023 operations of the City's Emergency Daytime Warming Centre (the Centre) operated from November 2022 to the end of March 2023.

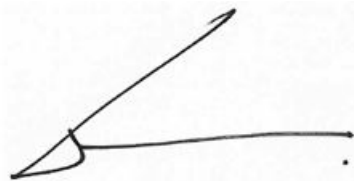
Respectfully submitted,

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Anne Berry
Director, Planning & Development Services

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

This report is provided for Council's information.

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Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer