

BUDGET COMMITTEE JUNE 23, 2003

VELLORE DRIVESHED FIRE PROOFING

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Executive Director of Buildings, Facilities and Parks and Heritage Vaughan recommends:

1. That the funding request for the works identified as the Vellore Driveshed Fire Proofing be considered during the 2004 Capital Budget deliberations.

Purpose

To seek Council approval for funding to fire proof the Vellore Driveshed.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Vellore Hall, School and Driveshed located on Weston Road, north of Rutherford Road were all designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1989. In 1990, a restoration project for all three buildings was completed by the City with assistance from the Ministries of Culture and Communications and Recreation and Tourism. A new landscape plan for this Vellore park site was completed in 2001. The Driveshed was constructed ca. 1890s and was made structurally sound during the 1990 restoration of the site.

Concern regarding the security and safety of the Vellore Driveshed was first brought forward at the March 20, 2002 Heritage Vaughan meeting by Buildings and Facilities Department staff due to the structure's highly flammable wood exterior and its open location in an urban park area frequented by youths. There had been evidence found of vandalism to the building such as graffiti writing and broken beer bottles left adjacent to the Driveshed. It was proposed at the Heritage Vaughan meeting in a motion by the Committee that the Driveshed building be relocated to an appropriate and viable venue in the City and also, that staff look into possible solutions to the security and safety concerns.

The Woodbridge Agricultural Society advised City Staff in April 2002 of its interest in possibly relocating the Driveshed to the Woodbridge Fair grounds and its re-use of the building at this location. After some consideration, the Agricultural Society advised Staff that it was no longer interested in relocating the subject building.

The Buildings and Facilities Department further explored other options to secure the Driveshed building in its existing location and found a fire retardant treatment that would alleviate building security and public safety concerns. This approach would also help preserve the Driveshed building in its original location adjacent to the historic Vellore Hall and Vellore School buildings. This proposal was brought forward to Heritage Vaughan committee for comment and review.

Heritage Vaughan at its meeting of May 28, 2003, reviewed the proposed fire retardant and weather sealant project quotation by Green Dolphin Systems Corporation and approved the proposed project in the following motion:

That Heritage Vaughan has no objections to the application of a fire retardant treatment and weather sealant product identified as "Fire Safe 108 Wood" on the siding of the Vellore Drive Shed; and,

That Heritage Vaughan has no objections to the \$30,000.00 cost of this treatment to the Drive Shed; and,

That Heritage Vaughan has no objections to this cost being taken from the Heritage Reserve Fund; and,

That the Buildings and Facilities Department ensure the proposed product meets all ISO safety standards.

Conclusion

This funding would be used to fire proof the Vellore Driveshed to preserve and alleviate building security and public safety concerns regarding the use of the park.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

G. Doris Haas
Commissioner of Community Services