

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES THE PRESERVATION OF THE BERTON ARTIFACTS AND MEMORABILIA STEERING COMMITTEE

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Preservation of the Berton Artifacts and Memorabilia Steering Committee recommends:

1. That the Ventin Group Architects BE RETAINED to assist the Preservation of the Berton Artifacts and Memorabilia Steering Committee in the development of a master plan including options for layout and design and a phasing schedule for the Pierre Berton Museum and any associated facilities;
2. That prior to the City entering into the professional services agreement with the Ventin Group, the Preservation of the Berton Artifacts and Memorabilia Steering Committee shall have approved a scope of work and work plan for the project;
3. That the Ventin Group Architects be retained on a single source basis, in accordance with the City's purchasing policies, to undertake the master planning study, in an amount of \$35,000.

Economic Impact

Adoption of this report will result in a financial commitment of \$35,000.

Purpose

To obtain Council direction to retain the Ventin Group Architects to assist the Preservation of the Berton Artifacts and Memorabilia Steering Committee by preparing a feasibility study to develop a master plan including options for layout and design and a phasing schedule for the Pierre Berton Museum and any associated facilities.

Background – Analysis and Options

On January 23, 2006 Council directed that a Committee be appointed to examine the opportunities for preserving artifacts from the life of Mr. Pierre Berton at a location in the Kleinburg Community. The Committee would be composed of Mayor Michael Di Biase and Councillor Peter Meffe, representatives from the Berton family and three representatives from the Kleinburg community.

On February 13, 2006 Council appointed the remaining members of the Preservation of the Berton Artifacts and Memorabilia Steering Committee. The Berton family is represented by: Mrs. Janet Berton, Ms. Patsy Berton, Mr. Peter Berton and Mr. Berton Woodward. The Kleinburg community is represented by Mr. John Kean, Mr. Bob Klein and Mr. David Watson.

One of the structuring objectives of the Committee is, "To create a place to house some of the artifacts (awards, honorary degrees, desk, books, photos and other memorabilia) collected by Mr. Berton during his 55 years of residence in Kleinburg".

The Committee has met on a regular basis since April of 2006. At its meeting on September 13, 2006, it recommended that a Planning Sub-Committee be formed to develop potential design solutions. The Planning Sub-Committee will be composed of two members of the Berton family; two members of Council; three members of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection Board of Trustees; one School Board representative; two members of the community and one member from the Vaughan Public Library Board.

In order to assist in the design work the Committee also recommended that the Ventin Group Architects be retained to perform a feasibility study to develop a master plan including options for layout and design and a phasing schedule for the project. Mr. Peter Berton is a partner in the Ventin Group Architects.

The Ventin Group was recommended by the Committee because of Mr. Berton's deep and extensive knowledge of the Kleinburg community, and the firm's expertise with public sector projects, particularly in the area of site and building design for institutions like museums, schools, libraries and theatres. In addition, the Ventin Group also specializes in heritage restoration. It frequently works in older downtown areas, similar to the Kleinburg core, which have special needs in terms of urban design and architectural treatment.

Because potential solutions may involve co-development or cooperation with the McMichael Canadian Collection Gallery, the Kleinburg Library and Kleinburg Public School, it will be important to have a consultant that has expertise with these types of institutions.

Due to the desire to move forward in a timely manner and the specific nature of the expertise required by the project, it is recommended that the Ventin Group Architects be retained on a single source basis in accordance with the City's purchasing policies, in an amount of \$35,000.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with Section 2.4.2, "Identify and implement innovative new partnerships." Approval of this report would allocate funding that would initiate the master planning process.

Conclusion

The Preservation of the Pierre Berton Artifacts and Memorabilia Steering Committee is now in a position to move ahead with the planning for a facility to house Mr. Berton's artifacts and memorabilia. Direction is being sought to proceed with the retention of the Ventin Group Architects, on a single source basis in accordance with the City's purchasing policies, to prepare master and phasing plans for the project. The funding for the study shall be in an amount of \$35,000.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Roy McQuillin, Manager of Corporate Policy

Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen
Commissioner of Community Services