

REPORT

Finance

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: November 27, 2023

From: Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer
Jacqueline Dairon, Acting CFO/Director of Finance
File:

Item #: 2023-768

Subject: Approval of Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8439, 2023

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council give three readings to the Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8439, 2023

PURPOSE

To seek Council's approval of the Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw.

SUMMARY

To create a new Reserve Fund ensuring transparency in financial reporting of Parks Reserve Fund.

BACKGROUND

The Westminster Pier Park fire occurred on September 13, 2020, leading to the closure of the damaged area. Cleanup and debris removal, including the demolition of the fire-damaged structure, took place between 2020 and winter 2022. The non-fire-damaged sections of Westminster Pier Park reopened in April 2021.

Negotiations with insurance adjustors and providers regarding the settlement options continued from summer 2021 to mid-2023. In June 2023, the insurers provided a final written settlement offer of \$30.0M, inclusive of \$10.0M that had been interim advanced, and without any conditions or limitations. The City accepted the offer and is in the process of allocating the proceeds of the claim.

On October 16, 2023 during Open Council meeting, Council adopted the recommendations below on Westminster Pier Park Fire Site - Next Steps:

THAT Council receive this report for information; and

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with Next Steps as outlined in this report.

In that Council report, staff indicated that a City reserve fund would be created to receive the proceeds in the Westminster Pier Park fire insurance claim.

The report also outlined the next steps to creating a true partnership and genuine collaboration with Rights and Title Holders to establish principles/ criteria for a riverfront project that reflects Indigenous rights, history, values and priorities. Together, the project partners would then co-create a subsequent process and timeline for community engagement, concept development and implementation, funded through the insurance proceeds.

DISCUSSION

Section 188 (1) of the Community Charter states that a council may, by bylaw, establish a reserve fund for a specified purpose and direct that monies be placed to the credit of the reserve fund.

The insurance claim for Westminster Pier Park fire has concluded and the settlement monies transferred to the City. To ensure ongoing transparency in financial reporting regarding the insurance proceeds, a reserve fund for the monies is being created. Creating a reserve offers several benefits including transparency and allowing any interest earned on this significant fund to accumulate into the Reserve Fund established under this Bylaw.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

Staff from the Office of the CAO and Finance participated in the preparation of this report.

OPTIONS

There are two options for Council’s consideration:

Option 1 – That Council give three readings to Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No.8439, 2023; or

Option 2 – That Council provide staff with further direction.

Staff recommends Option 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8439, 2023

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

Indeep Johal, Manager, Financial Services

This report was reviewed by:

Craig MacFarlane, Manager, Legal Services
Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation
Carolyn Armanini, Senior Planner, Economic Development

This report was approved by:

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Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer