

DATE OF MEETING 2023-JUL-19

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SUBJECT ISLAND ROOTS MARKET CO-OPERATIVE REPORT

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To provide information to City Council as follow up to the presentation by the Island Roots Market Co-operative on 2022-OCT-03.

BACKGROUND

At the 2022-OCT-03 Council meeting, Island Roots Market Cooperative (IRMC) requested the City of Nanaimo support the IRMC by doing the following:

- Permanent signage promoting the market on all main routes into Nanaimo
- Commitment to keeping market hours (Wednesdays from 3pm to 6pm)
- Painting of the Centennial Building
- Contingency plans be in place in case of extreme weather
- Reduced rent for the Centennial Building

A motion passed directing Staff to prepare a report to the Finance and Audit Committee outlining ways the City can increase support for the Island Roots Farmers' Market (the "Market").

Island Roots Market Cooperative (IRMC) has been operating the Market at Beban Park since 2013. Over the last 10 years, the Market has shifted locations within Beban Park grounds and has evolved from a seasonal April to October market to a 12-month market, moving indoors to the Centennial Building from November to March. |

DISCUSSION

City staff have worked with IRMC as a tenant of Beban Park for over 10 years, as such many opportunities have occurred to provide support and to compliment the delivery of the Market. The Beban Park venues have assisted in IRMC delivery of food security and food market accessibility within Nanaimo.

Since the 2022-OCT-03 Council meeting City staff have met with the new Vice-President as well as operations staff of IRMC. City Staff reviewed background to the items brought forward to Council, discussed options and solutions as well as introduced future opportunities to support and work together for the success of the Market.

As a result, a wide range of signage options have been reviewed with IRMC, the market hours of operation have been discussed and confirmed, and painting of the inside of the Centennial Building has been budgeted and planned for summer 2023.

Contingency plans for extreme weather are guided by City safety plans for public facilities, City staff have reviewed safety plans and procedures with IRMC.

Rental rates for the Centennial Building are defined in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Fees and Charges Bylaw 7336, adopted by Council 2023-JUN-05. As rates are set by Bylaw, groups looking for reductions normally apply for an operating grant as fees and charges are not waived or reduced.

The Beban Park Master Plan competed in 2015, speaks to a vision for Park development that will include multi use facilities that support community events, health and recreation as well as fostering partnership that will actively support community needs and trends. IRMC has been involved in these conversations related to the Beban Park Master Plan since 2015. Implementation of these projects and initiatives will need to be allocated through the capital planning process.

CONCLUSION

City staff will continue to meet regularly and work with IRMC to identify ways to support the operation of the Market at Beban Park and assist in meeting food security goals in Nanaimo. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- IRMC has been located at Beban Park since 2013.
- City staff have met with IRMC to review items raised at 2022-OCT-03 Council meeting.
- City staff will continue to meet and work with IRMC to identify ways to support the Market at Beban Park.

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

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Wendy Fulla
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