



Council report

Meeting date:	July 6, 2021
Title:	2022 Durham Homecoming Partnership
Prepared by:	Kodey Hewlett, Recreation Supervisor
Reviewed by:	Laura Johnston, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommendation

That council direct staff to negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Durham Homecoming Committee to receive event, logistics and financial services support from the municipality for the 2022 Homecoming event; and

That council approve the request from the Homecoming Committee for an interest-free loan of \$50,000 to be repaid from the Homecoming Committee's fundraising proceeds; and

That council approve support through the community grants program to assist with the cost of the 2022 Durham Homecoming insurance premium.

Executive summary

The Durham 2022 Homecoming Committee is requesting a memorandum of understanding (MoU) agreement with the municipality. The MoU will outline responsibilities of each party, with the municipality providing financial services support (including an interest-free loan of \$50,000 to serve as seed money), assistance with event requirements (permits, road closures, noise bylaw exemption, etc.) and a municipal community grant to assist in covering the cost of an events insurance policy. The committee will be responsible for all fundraising and event delivery, and has pledged a significant donation to the (geographic) town of Durham with the proceeds of the event.

Background and discussion

Memorandum of Understanding:

At the June 15, 2021 council meeting, Alex Neuman, chair of the Durham 2022 Homecoming Committee, outlined the event, volunteers and anticipated outcomes of next year's celebration, which also marks 150 years for the former town of Durham. Additionally, the committee requested status as an advisory committee of council. Council directed staff to work with the



committee and report back on what that arrangement would look like. Following a meeting with members of the Homecoming Committee, the preferred partnership model is a memorandum of understanding agreement between the committee and the municipality. Members of the Homecoming Committee are reviewing the MoU between the West Grey Durham Lions Club and the municipality for the Heritage Bridge garden in Durham to help create an agreement for their specific requirements. Staff will participate in developing the MoU and support this partnership model.

There are several reasons staff and the committee prefer an agreement, especially for the clarity it will provide for both parties. The MoU will give the Homecoming Committee flexibility in their operations and fund allocation. It will also enable the municipality the ability to support the event at a relatively low cost, with reduced impact on staff time due to eliminating the need for several advisory committee meetings, and could set a new municipal service and support model for future homecoming events.

Funding support:

The Homecoming Committee has requested an interest-free loan of \$50,000 from the municipality. The committee will repay the loan post-event, with the proceeds from their fundraising efforts. The loan is required as seed money to launch the background work for the event, which is only one year away. This request has been granted to other groups in the past and the municipal treasurer confirmed the finance department has capacity to assist with administering the loan and corresponding financial services.

Finally, the committee will require event insurance and staff is supportive of their request for a community grant to assist with securing coverage. At this time, staff are awaiting the approximate cost of insurance coverage from our insurance carrier.

Legal and legislated requirements

Municipal Act, 2001, as amended

Memorandum of Understanding - to be brought back for council endorsement.

Financial and resource implications

The \$50,000 requested from Durham Homecoming 2022 will be a repayable loan and will have no impact on the budget.

Staffing implications

Staff implications will be minimal leading up to the event with the exception of finance. Staffing implications will begin to increase significantly in the weeks prior to the event, as recreation, public works, and emergency services will be on hand to assist with day-of logistics and road



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closures. Both recreation, from an events perspective and public works, from a logistics perspective will be utilized quite heavily at various times in supporting this event.

Consultation

CAO
Clerk
Treasurer

Attachments

None.

Next steps

On council direction, staff will work with the Durham 2022 Homecoming Committee to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that council can endorse at a future council meeting. As well, on council direction, staff will work with the Durham 2022 Homecoming Committee to initiate financial support.

Respectfully submitted:

Kodey Hewlett, Recreation Supervisor