

Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee
Meeting #5/19, Friday, June 07, 2019

FROM: Michael Tolensky, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

RE: ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST
Agreement for Glassco Park
(CFN 61457)

KEY ISSUE

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) enter into an updated agreement with Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) for ongoing management, maintenance and stewardship of Glassco Park, located in the City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, Humber River watershed.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) is the owner of lands known as “Glassco Park” located in the City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, Humber River watershed.

AND WHEREAS in 1969 (then) Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and (then) Ontario Heritage Foundation entered into an agreement for the development, maintenance, administration and preservation of Glassco Park, which will expire on July 23, 2019;

AND WHEREAS in 1999 Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) approved the Boyd North and Glassco Park Management Plan (Management Plan);

AND WHEREAS TRCA has successfully managed Glassco Park on behalf of OHT and OHT wishes to enter into a new arrangement with TRCA for the ongoing maintenance, administration and stewardship of Glassco Park;

THEREFORE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that TRCA enter into an agreement with OHT for the continued maintenance, administration and stewardship of Glassco Park with the key following terms and conditions:

- (i) that the term of the agreement be for 25 years together with a renewal option for a further 25 years at the option of OHT;
- (ii) that the possession and control of Glassco Park be granted to TRCA to maintain, administer and steward Glassco Park in accordance with the goals, objectives and those stewardship practices specified the Management Plan;
- (iii) TRCA will continue to manage and administer the leases granted for the existing house rentals, agricultural and farming uses;
- (iv) TRCA will undertake a review of the Management Plan once every ten years, subject to available funding;
- (v) TRCA is responsible for all operating costs and expenses, including insurance, taxes and utilities incurred in connection with the management, maintenance and preservation of Glassco Park;
- (vi) any other terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the TRCA staff and solicitor;

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AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take whatever action may be required to implement the agreement, including the obtaining of necessary approvals and execution of any documents.

BACKGROUND

Glassco Park is owned by the Province of Ontario, through the OHT, and has been managed by the TRCA on behalf of OHT since 1969. Glassco Park is approximately 194 hectares in size is bounded by Stegman's Mill Road and Teston Side Road to the north, Major Mackenzie Drive to the south, Islington Avenue to the west, and Pine Valley Drive to the east.

TRCA owns and manages a large parcel of land adjacent to Glassco Park including Boyd Conservation Area, the Kortright Centre for Conservation, Boyd Centre, Restoration Services Centre, a tree nursery, William T Foster Woods, and lands under agreement with the McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

The Boyd North and Glassco Park Management Plan ("Management Plan") which was approved by the Board in 1999 contains eight management zones which are intended to preserve, protect and enhance the natural, cultural and heritage resources of the area, while directing the kinds of compatible and appropriate uses that may occur within them. Significant community appreciation, enjoyment and stewardship of Boyd North and Glassco Park's unique resources have been achieved through the Management Plan.

TRCA is currently working with OHT staff to develop a proposed timeframe and workplan detailing necessary funding, staffing and resources to undertake a review and update of the Management Plan.

Current Use

Glassco Park currently contains significant forests, areas which have been reforested, house rentals and some lands being leased for agricultural use. There are several archeological resources located at Glassco Park, the most significant including the Late Iroquoian Kleinburg Ossuary and the Thonnakona Burial Ground which is a sacred site of particular significance to the Huron-Wendat Nation.

TRCA will continue to administer the existing leases granted for the rental properties and agricultural uses.

Stewardship Agreement

The following are the key terms and conditions of the proposed Agreement:

- (i) that the term of the agreement be for 25 years together with a renewal option for a further 25 years at the option of OHT;
- (ii) that the possession and control of Glassco Park be granted to TRCA to maintain, administer and steward Glassco Park in accordance with the goals, objectives and those stewardship practices specified the Management Plan;
- (iii) TRCA will continue to manage and administer the leases and licences granted for the existing rental properties and agricultural and farming uses;
- (iv) TRCA will undertake a review of the Management Plan once every ten years, subject to available funding;
- (v) TRCA is responsible for all operating costs and expenses, including insurance, taxes and utilities incurred in connection with the management, maintenance and preservation of Glassco Park;

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- (vi) any other terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the TRCA staff and solicitor.

Attachment 1 is a sketch illustrating the location of the subject lands. Attachment 2 is an orthophoto illustrating the location of the subject lands.

RATIONALE

Ongoing management and stewardship of Glassco Park by TRCA on behalf of OHT, will ensure an integrated approach with the adjoining Boyd North lands and will achieve the following:

- providing a framework for determining the ecological appropriateness of any proposed public use to ensure that the integrity, diversity and sustainability of the property is maintained;
- ensure that any major land use changes expected in the surrounding area including residential and commercial development are managed appropriately; and
- ensuring that the property will be a special place for future generations to enjoy environmental learning, recreational activity, natural, cultural and heritage experiences.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 1 – Green the Toronto region’s economy

Strategy 3 – Rethink greenspace to maximize its value

Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

FINANCIAL DETAILS

The management and administration of Glassco Park by TRCA will be revenue neutral with generated revenues funding operating costs and expenses.

Opportunities for funding for review of the Management Plan and a capital investment strategy are being pursued with OHT. Further opportunities for funding from other sources such as the provincial and federal governments, private foundations, local community groups and private funding sources, will also be pursued.

Report prepared by: Nadia Wells, extension 5859; Lori Colussi, extension 5303

Emails: nadia.wells@trca.ca; lori.colussi@trca.ca

For Information contact: Nadia Wells, extension 5859, Lori Colussi, extension 5303;

Emails: nadia.wells@trca.on.ca; lori.colussi@trca.ca

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Attachments: 2

Attachment 1: Site Plan

Attachment 2: Orthophoto