



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Information, Heritage and Seniors Committee
From: Jana Burns, Wellington Place Administrator
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Subject: Wellington Place Pavilion

Background

This report provides context to the proposed Pavilion and its vision at Wellington Place.

In 2011 County Council approved a Concept Plan in consultation with the communities of Wellington County. The Plan speaks to the value of the campus as a “landmark property whose role is to provide a people-oriented space to serve the larger community for years to come.” In 2021 the WCMA completed its Strategic Plan. This Plan identified the need for creating a dynamic and engaging site for residents and visitors, storage for future Museum collections, a dedicated Indigenous area, and space for programming, education and community events.

As the lead at Wellington Place, the WCMA then combined these themes with the original Concept Plan objectives to create the Wellington Place Mini-Masterplan. The space behind the WCMA parking lot is zoned as civic space, is accessible to the public and provides a needed, meaningful area for engagement and education. Committee provided valuable feedback and direction to facilitate the design of the civic space at Wellington Place and the document was approved in principle in 2022.

The Plan includes a pavilion, as the need for programming and community gathering space grows. It was raised during Strategic Planning sessions in 2020 that WCMA programme offerings often conflict with room bookings made by regular community groups, celebrants, member municipalities and the public. Events and activities sell out rapidly, with comments from the public saying there are not enough family activities in Wellington County. Outdoor sheltered spaces available for rent have become needed with population growth and increased demand. In addition to WCMA activities, school groups, tourism operators, active living groups, arts and culture groups and local events in the pavilion would help fulfill this need.

Discussions for the pavilion’s design began in 2021 as staff consulted the Indigenous Advisory Committee, local community groups and County departments. These discussions did not change the size of the project, but provided details such as additional power, storage, and layout.

The pavilion is an extension of activities in a space that is necessary. It stretches the outdoor season for programming, and allows for a different type of engagement. A multi-use space furthers Wellington Place as destination for visitors and residents. While it was discussed that the pavilion could be postponed to a future year, staff caution that the cost of the project may significantly increase.

Mental health and building stronger connections with the community are important elements for public spaces. The County is genuinely putting effort towards encouraging healthy engagement, and the pavilion is a further commitment of the County's core values to caring for the personal wellbeing of its residents.

Strategic Action Plan

This report relates to the following objectives and priorities in the County's Strategic Action Plan:

- Best services in place to service the County's residents and businesses.
- Best infrastructure in place to meet the current and future needs of the community.

Recommendation

That the Wellington Place Pavilion report be received for information and forwarded to County Council.

Attachments: Pavilion renderings.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Burns', is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Jana Burns
Wellington Place Administrator