Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services - April 3, 2007

Item No. 2 Millennium Library - Chinese Rock Garden
File L(32.1)

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 18, 2007, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendations of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development and submits the following to Council:

1. That the concept of converting the second floor balcony of the Millennium Library into a Chinese Rock Garden be endorsed.

2. That the efforts of the Chinese Rock Garden Committee to fundraise for the redevelopment of the second floor balcony of the Millennium Library into a Chinese Rock Garden be endorsed.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services - April 3, 2007

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 18, 2007, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendations of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 3, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development and the administrative recommendation and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

On April 2, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development concurred in the administrative recommendation and submitted the matter to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and Council.

RE: MILLENNIUM LIBRARY - CHINESE ROCK GARDEN

FOR SUBMISSION TO:	Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development
ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED BY:	Clive Wightman, Acting Director Community Services Department
REPORT DATE:	March 21, 2007

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That Council endorse the concept of converting the second floor balcony of the Millennium Library into a Chinese Rock Garden.

2. That Council endorse the efforts of the Chinese Rock Garden Committee to fundraise for the redevelopment of the second floor balcony of the Millennium Library into a Chinese Rock Garden.

Report Summary

Key Issues:

- The second floor balcony in the Millennium Library is an undeveloped space that fell outside the scope of the Millennium Library project.
- The Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre, in cooperation with the Winnipeg Library Foundation, is interested in fundraising for the redevelopment of the balcony into a Chinese Rock Garden.
- The proposed Chinese Rock Garden would create a public reading garden and cultural focal point in the Millennium library.
- A series of preliminary renderings for the proposed Chinese Rock Garden on the second floor balcony of the Millennium Library have been prepared for the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre.
- Based on the preliminary design concepts (Appendix 1), the Chinese Rock Garden Committee proposes to fundraise approximately $300,000 to pay for the construction and installation of a pagoda, pathways, and other materials and features.
- A working committee has been established with Karen Keppler, Winnipeg Library Foundation and William (Bill) Norrie, QC, as the Committee Co-Chairs.

- Council endorsement of the proposed project will aid the working committee in their fundraising efforts.

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General Implications

( ) None

() For the organization overall and/or for other departments

(X) For the community and/or organizations external to the City

( ) Involves a multi-year contract

Comment(s): The redevelopment of the second floor balcony in the Millennium Library into a Chinese Rock Garden will provide enhanced space for library programming, and offer an alternative space for the public to read within an enjoyable setting

Policy Implications

(X) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Regulatory Implications

(X) None

( ) Eliminates or reduces regulatory impact

( ) Proposes regulatory impact

Comment(s):

Environmental Implications

(X) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Human Resources Implications

(X) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Financial Implications

(X) Within approved current and/or capital budget

( ) Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

Comment(s): Funding for this project will come from donations raised by the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre and the Winnipeg Library Foundation. Ongoing operating costs to maintain the redeveloped space is not yet known, but is expected to be minimal and will be covered by existing operating budgets in the Community Services Department, Library Services Division.

Report

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

Support from Council for this project will aid the Chinese Rock Garden Committee in their efforts to fundraise for the project.

HISTORY:

In May 2005, the Winnipeg Library Foundation organized a meeting between the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre and the Community Services Department, Library Services Division to discuss the possibility of redeveloping the second floor balcony of the Millennium Library into a Chinese Rock Garden.

In early 2006, Dr. Joseph Du, the President of the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre visited China and met with Professor Wu Xiao-ping, an architectural designer from Hubei, China, to discuss preparing a series of preliminary renderings for the proposed Chinese Rock Garden (Appendix 1).

In September 2006, Professor Wu Xiao-ping visited Winnipeg to examine the balcony space for the Chinese Rock Garden in order to prepare more detailed renderings for the proposed project.

In November 2006, a Chinese Rock Garden Committee was established to lead a fundraising campaign for this project.

DISCUSSION:

Current Situation:

The second floor balcony of the Millennium Library is an undeveloped space that fell outside the scope of the Millennium Library project. The balcony faces Smith Street and is an open air balcony. The only access to the balcony is from the second floor of the Millennium Library. The balcony is approximately 1,200 sq ft and has a finished concrete floor and drainage system. Currently the balcony is empty and locked to the public.

Proposed Redevelopment:

In 2005, the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre, in cooperation with the Winnipeg Library Foundation, expressed interest in fundraising for the redevelopment of the second floor balcony at the Millennium Library into a Chinese Rock Garden.

A working Committee has been established with Karen Keppler, from the Winnipeg Library Foundation and William (Bill) Norrie, QC, as the Committee Co-Chairs.

The Winnipeg Library Foundation would receive all donations and handle the distribution of tax receipts.

Based on the preliminary design concepts (Appendix 1), the Chinese Rock Garden Committee proposes to fundraise approximately $300,000 to pay for the project. This will include the construction and installation of a pagoda, pathways, and other features that will transform this vacant balcony space into a usable, culturally friendly, public space within the library.

Two options for the balcony are being reviewed. The first option proposes that the balcony remain an open air balcony and only useable during the summer months. The second option proposes enclosing the balcony and turning it into a three season space that could be used in spring, summer and fall, but not winter.

The pagoda and other material would be manufactured in China and shipped to Winnipeg where they would be reassembled on the balcony. All plant materials would be artificial, as the balcony is not conducive for growing natural vegetation.

The proposed garden would create a low-maintenance space for the public to read in; and a cultural focal point in the library.

The design for the garden and pagoda structure would be shared with the Urban Design Advisory Committee to ensure that the final design is appropriate in a downtown setting, and suitable from an urban design perspective.

Work to Date:

The Chinese Rock Garden Committee has had two meetings to review concept plans for the garden and begin to discuss fundraising ideas.

In addition, the President of the Chinese Cultural and Community Centre has had preliminary discussions with the Consul General of China in Toronto, and representatives from the government of China, about supporting the concept and potentially contributing financially to the project.

Financial Impact Statement

Date: March 21, 2007

Project Name:

Millennium Library - Chinese Rock Garden

First Year of Program 2007

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	-	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Funding for this project will come from donations raised by the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre and the Winnipeg Library Foundation. Ongoing operating costs to maintain the redeveloped space is not yet known, but is expected to be minimal and will be covered by existing operating budgets in the Community Services Department, Library Services Division.

original signed by

Cindy Fernandes, B. Comm (Hon), CMA
Acting Manager of Finance & Administrative Services

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS:

Internal Consultation With and Concurrence By:

- Planning, Property & Development Department
- Public Works Department

External Consultation With:

- Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre
- Winnipeg Library Foundation

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Department: Community Services Department
Division: Library Services
Prepared by: Rick Walker, Arthur Cohen
File No.

Appendix 1





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