

Staff Report to Council

Title: Station Beach Boardwalk Design

Report Number: Parks & Facilities-2024-03

Director: Community Services

Meeting Date:

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Date to be considered by Council:

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Recommendation:

That Council approve the conceptual design for Station Beach Boardwalk.

Executive Summary:

Staff are seeking approval for the design of the Boardwalk at Station Beach. Once approved, GMBLueplan will proceed with developing tender documents for construction. The 2025 budget will include a proposal for construction of the boardwalk.

Strategic Priorities:

C.9-Enhance the experience at the lakefront

Financial Considerations:

Council approved \$50,000 as part of the 2023 budget deliberations to proceed with design drawings and tender documents for the boardwalk located at Station Beach.

To date, the project is on budget.

Policy:

NA

Context and Background Information:

The 2023 Waterfront Master Plan identified that the Station Beach boardwalk replacement should be aimed at enhancing visitor safety and reducing municipal liability, costs and maintenance. The project was projected to focus on the rapidly declining condition of the existing boardwalk. A beloved feature of the waterfront, it was recommended that the boardwalk be replaced. The Waterfront Master Plan suggested the following considerations:

- Exploring materiality options, to ensure the new boardwalk is durable, long-lasting, and suitable for the waterfront and its users (i.e. aesthetically pleasing, does not pose hazards to children or the elderly, accessible etc.)
- Planning for routine maintenance and repairs ahead of time, to prevent the need for premature replacement.
- Moving the boardwalk eastward, to allow the adjacent dune system to grow.

Due to the existing condition of the boardwalk and the degree of complaints staff had received due its condition, it was warranted as a high priority for staff to proceed with replacement. Staff did complete some minor repair work on the boardwalk in summer 2022 to ensure hazards were reduced.

Through a competitive process, staff issued an RFP for design and tender document preparation in October 2023.

GM Blueplan Engineering Consulting Firm was awarded the contract to proceed with community engagement and development of a preferred design.

Consultation Overview:

Community engagement both in-person and on-line was conducted to seek clarity on what users would like to see included.

Further consultation was garnered through Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority as well as Lake Huron Coastal Centre as well as the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Origin:

Recommendation from the Waterfront Master Plan.

Implementation Considerations:

Staff may consider requesting pre-budget approval as part of the 2025 budget process to proceed with a procurement process in order to source out companies to complete the building process prior to the 2025 summer season.

Risk Analysis:

Risks may include escalated material and labour costs which could prolong the approval process of construction.

Supply chain issues may cause the project to commence after the busy summer season.

If the project does commence in early spring, it could potentially extend into the summer season.

Delaying the project to future years, may subject the Municipality to litigation if a patron was injured due to the deteriorating condition of the boardwalk.

Attachments: Technical Memo, GM Blueplan Engineering
GM Blueplan Engineering Presentation and Full Scope

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