

Information Report

Title: Engagement on the Secord Monument Update

Report Number: Strategic Initiatives-2024-12

Director: Chief Administrative Officer

Manager: Strategic Initiatives

1st Meeting Date:
Wednesday, July 24, 2024

2nd Meeting Date:
Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Executive Summary:

On August 13, 2023, the Municipality of Kincardine Council directed staff to prepare a report with recommendations for Council's consideration related to one of the two monuments honouring Dr. Solomon Secord, including possible options for public engagement.

On January 24, 2024, Council approved the resources needed to engage the community in meaningful conversations and learning, about equity, diversity and inclusion which will assist Council in its decision-making regarding this Secord Monument.

Dr. Laura Mae Lindo was chosen as the consultant for the engagement process. The first phase of engagement process has been completed as of May 31, 2024.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of what the facilitator heard throughout the first phase of the engagement process (see Attachment #1). Dr. Laura Mae Lindo will present her summary to Council at this meeting.

Context and Background Information:

The first phase of engagement was initiated and included four main components:

1. **Public survey:** an online / paper survey was launched to the public on March 12th and was promoted on social media, radio, newspaper, post cards, through networks etc. The survey was open until March 31st, 2024, and had 475 people participate. The purpose of the survey was to collect information about:
 - The issues that need consideration.
 - The perspectives and worries from the community.
 - Community suggestions on who needs to be engaged in the discussions about the monument.

2. **Small group community conversations #1** were held in April with people interested in:
 - history and heritage
 - equity and inclusion
 - preserving the monument in its original form
 - residents requesting participation

The groups above were identified through the input collected from the survey.

3. **Small group community conversations #2** were also held in May. Invitation to participate was promoted through social media, the website, newspaper, an update to the community and through radio.

Dr. Lindo has created a summary of what she heard through the survey as well as the community conversations (see Attachment #1).

4. **Research on the history and timelines:** was initiated surrounding the installation of both monuments. Many secondary sources have been collected. Work to collect primary sources continues into the next phase of the engagement process.
5. **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):** based on questions asked and comments received from the public, a “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) section has been created and is available on the Municipality of Kincardine website. As the process evolves questions and answers are being added as needed. The public can continue to submit their questions or comments [online](#) and/or by contacting the facilitator or staff.
6. **Progress Update:** updates on the progress to date have been developed and promoted to the public on an ongoing basis. Visit the website www.kincardine.ca/Secord for these updates.

Future components and steps will be identified by Council.

Consultation Overview:

A public survey, community conversations and a question and comment process has been initiated to gather input from the public.

Origin:

Council Resolution – July 10, 2023

Whereas the Secord Monument has been removed from its previous location due to construction; and

Whereas the proposed new location post construction won't allow the monument to serve effectively as a sundial; and

Whereas the commemorative text on the monument contains passages that do not reflect on contributions to the Municipality of Kincardine, the Province of Ontario, or to Canada, and are

not consistent with the municipality's commitment to developing and completing actions to improve inclusion, diversity, equity and access (IDEA); now therefore be it resolved That Council direct Staff to defer the placement of the Secord Monument until Council has the opportunity to disposition these issues.

Council Resolution - September 13, 2023

That staff be directed to prepare a report with recommendations for Councils consideration related to the Secord Monument including possible options for public engagement.

Council Resolution - January 24, 2024

That Council direct staff to hire an external consultant(s) to provide advice on the process and to assist in the facilitation of a public engagement process regarding equity, diversity and inclusion, to assist Council in its decision-making related to the Secord Monument; and That Council approve the budget for external support for this advice and assistance with the process for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 from the contingency fund.

Attachments: Attachment 1: Summary of Engagement Process – completed by Dr. Laura Mae Lindo

Prepared by: Lorie Fioze, Manager of Strategic Initiatives

Submitted by: Lorie Fioze, Manager of Strategic Initiatives