

Date: 2023-11-22

Subject: **Report to Council on Status of Historic Bovaird House Management Agreement, CW012-2023**

Contact: Charlton Carscallen, Principal Planner – Heritage, Integrated City Planning

Steve Ganesh, Commissioner, Planning, Building and Growth Management

Report Number: Planning, Bld & Growth Mgt-2023-932

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Charlton Carscallen, Principal Planner, Planning Building and Growth Management to the Committee of Council Meeting of September 20, 2023, re: **Report to Council on Status of Historic Bovaird House Management Agreement, CW012-2023**, be received;
2. That Council approve the Interim Management and Operation Agreement between the City and the Friends of Historic Bovaird House and delegate execution of the agreement to the Commissioner of Planning, Building and Growth Manager;
3. That Council consider and endorse the Report titled Historic Bovaird House Community Museum Feasibility Report (Attachment B) and provide further direction to staff regarding the potential future role of PAMA in the operation of Bovaird House and/or the question of future museum status for the property; and,
4. That Council direct staff to commence the process for development and release of an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the procurement of a third-party to operate Historic Bovaird House per Council resolution CW012-2023 and report back to Council with a recommendation

Overview:

- **In January of 2023, Council passed a Motion (CW012-2023) that provided direction to staff on several matters related to Historic Bovaird House.**

- **Staff were directed to implement an agreement between the City and the Friends of Historic Bovaird House for the management and operation of Historic Bovaird House on an interim basis.**
- **Staff were directed to initiate discussions with the Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA) regarding the potential role for PAMA in operation of Historic Bovaird House.**
- **Staff were directed to explore options for a formal Expression of Interest or Request for Proposal (EOI/RFP) process to seek a third party provider to operate Historic Bovaird House on behalf of the City.**

Background:

Historic Bovaird House Interim Agreement

Per Council direction, staff prepared an interim Management and Operations agreement for the continued operation of Bovaird House while the City pursues options for the operation of the property by a third party. The agreement has been completed and has been signed by the Friends of Historic Bovaird House (“FHBH”) and is ready for signature by the Commissioner of Planning, Building and Growth Management. The interim agreement will be for a period of two years.

Discussion with PAMA re: Management of Bovaird House

On March 21, 2023, staff met with PAMA Management to discuss the possibility of PAMA taking over responsibility for the management of Bovaird House. While the Region was not opposed to the idea, it was identified that they do not currently have the staff or other resources to take on the additional responsibility at this time.

Since the discussion with PAMA in March, the provincial government announcement regarding the dissolution of Peel region by 2025 means that PAMA and its operations, as it is currently constituted, will be under review. Given the future operations of the museum is unknown at this time, it may be that Bovaird House could become part of its operations in a future organizational structure. This would remain a cost-effective option as the museum has an existing, experience and qualified staff and operation structure that would be suitable to adopting Historic Bovaird House as a satellite to its main facility.

Potential Museum Status

Following from the discussion with PAMA and in response to Council questions regarding the City seeking formal museum status for the property, staff commissioned a report to review the current state of the property and its facilities relative to the Standards for Community Museums in Ontario (“the Standards”). This was done to address issues discussed by Council when passing the motion including:

1. Raising the profile of Bovaird House in the community
2. Expanding the interpretive/educational opportunities of the facility, and
3. Gaining eligibility for provincial funding for the operation of the property,

Based on the consultant review, the current property would not require substantial alteration to meet the Standards. The main issues to be addressed are related to access for people with disabilities and improvements to the HVAC system in the Bovaird House itself. The total cost to update the buildings and property is estimated to range between \$484,000 and \$768,000 depending on the level of accommodation sought relative to AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act). The report provides two options to address the AODA access requirements and includes details of how each might be achieved.

Current Situation:

Staff are seeking Council endorsement of the interim Agreement with FHBH and that authority be delegated to the Commissioner of Planning, Building and Growth Management for its signing.

Staff are developing the EOI for to solicit third-party proposals for the future operation of Bovaird House. Staff are continuing to monitor the ongoing status of PAMA and will be mindful of opportunities to pursue further discussions with PAMA regarding the operation of the facility as the future status of PAMA becomes clearer.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

The proposed interim agreement with the FHBH includes an annual operating grant of \$5,000. This will be funded from the Integrated City Planning operating budget.

Staff are not recommending “Museum Status” improvements estimated at \$484,000 to \$768,000 at this time. Should Council provide direction to so do, staff will bring forward a future report to Council.

Other Implications:

Legal Implications – The agreement has been reviewed and approved by the City’s Legal Services. Given that the agreement creates a more formal arrangement with FHBH than has existed in the past, the City will now have a greater responsibility relative to oversight and management of the property.

Strategic Focus Area:

This report aligns with the **Health & Well-being** and **Culture and Diversity** strategic focus areas:

Heritage in general, and specific resources like Historic Bovaird House, help to create a sense of place, local identity and overall community cohesiveness. By telling the story of the community's past, we help both long-term residents and newcomers connect to the City and engender a sense of belonging to a particular place with its own unique history. Similarly, in a city of great diversity, facilities like Historic Bovaird House help foster cross-cultural understanding. It provides an understanding of the history that the community grew from and that continues to influence how it functions today

Conclusion:

Signing the agreement will complete the first part of Council's direction under Motion **CW012-2023**. Staff will prepare an EOI for the on-going operation of Historic Bovaird House and develop a list of appropriate candidates from whom we can solicit submissions. With Council approval staff will continue to explore the opportunity and viability for PAMAs future involvement in the operation of Historic Bovaird House.

Authored by:



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Reviewed by:

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Approved by:

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Commissioner, Planning, Building and
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Submitted by:

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Attachments:

- Attachment 1: Historic Bovaird House Site Management and Operation Agreement
- Attachment 2: Historic Bovaird Community Museum Feasibility Report