Session: Public Session
Subject: Library Terrace Renovation
Prepared By: Margaret Mitchell, Terry Wilkes, Susanna Hubbard Krimmer
Presented By: Margaret Mitchell
Purpose of Report: For Receipt and Information Only

Recommendation

It is recommended that this report be received.

Issue / Opportunity

In the spring of 2008, the City of London and the Library began discussions about improving the outdoor Central library café area on Dundas Street, east of the entrance. Concerns were raised about the visual impact of the grilled fencing on the street as well as access to the Rotary Reading Garden itself.

It was recommended that the Library consider ways to open up the area to provide an accessible and user-friendly area while making it a more attractive component of the Dundas streetscape.

Background & Review

The grilled fenced area housed tables and chairs as well as bike racks. It also served as a street entrance to the Little Red Roaster Café. The area was open during the Library’s operating hours and locked afterwards to prevent vandalism. The appearance, because of the configuration of gates and fences, was unwelcoming and cold.

The Rotary Reading Garden was built as an extension of the Library and is used frequently for programs and rentals as well as individual use. The Garden is open from the street from time to time with controlled access for special events. Direct access to
the Rotary Reading Garden from Dundas Street was reviewed and was not recommended because of significant grade issues. Other factors considered as well were potential for vandalism and theft and the cost of continuous security and surveillance that would be required in the area.

In early 2009, design work was completed for the Library Terrace, by Vafiades Landscape Architects, which had designed the original Reading Garden and Terrace. The structural work was tendered in May 2009. Construction began on May 30th. A picture of the proposed redeveloped site is included as Appendix 1 of this report.

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Bike racks are being re-located in the area and permanent seating is being installed. The Rotary Reading Garden itself will be more visible from the street and also enhance the streetscape to a limited extent. The area will be managed by the Little Red Roaster in terms of food services and maintained by the London Public Library.

The gates are being re-used at the Westmount Branch to secure its small garden area.

An informal celebration of the re-opening of the Library Terrace is being planned for early July.

**Sources of Funding**

The estimated cost of the project (excluding architectural fees) is $21,000.

Sources of Funding:

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of London</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>London Downtown Business Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>London Public Library Infrastructure Funds</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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The City of London is funding all architectural services required for the project.