



Subject: Thorold Community Theatre – Allanburg Community Centre
Report to: Thorold City Council

Recommendations

1. That Report PWCS 48-2023 **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Key Facts

- The Thorold Community Theatre (TCT) has been operating from its home site at Trinity United Church since 1986 and is looking to relocate to a new facility.
- Staff have met with members of the TCT and have identified the Allanburg Community Centre as a potential site.
- The Allanburg Community Centre is currently underutilized and not generating sufficient revenue to help offset the cost of needed improvements and normal operations.
- The Allanburg Community Centre will require considerable investment in the upcoming years to allow for community programming, private rentals and special events.

Budgetary Status

No funding has been approved for Capital expenditures in the 2023 Budget. The following projects were placed on the Deferrals/Reductions to Achieve Budget Target list:

- Design for AODA Compliance \$150,000
- Replacement of Roof \$250,000
- Replacement of Fire Panel \$25,000

Analysis

The Thorold Community Theatre (TCT) has 87 active members and has been operating for the past 36 years at Trinity United Church. Recent decisions to sell the church property has necessitated a search for a new home. The TCT is seeking a permanent home, preferably in Thorold. They require immediate storage space for chairs, lights, sound equipment, tools, curtains and office space. They are prepared to complete the necessary leasehold improvements needed to support their operation/events.

Executive members of the TCT made a presentation to the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee on April 3rd, 2023, which passed the following motion in support of their proposal.

*“That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee **RECOMMENDS** Council **DIRECT** staff to provide a staff report on Thorold Community Theatre’s proposal to utilize the Allanburg Community Recreation Centre.”*

Subsequently, on April 5, 2023, the TCT made a presentation to Allanburg Board of Management. A number of questions related to scheduling, access and operational matters would need to be coordinated with the Board of Management so that other private/public uses could still be held at the facility. The TCT would require exclusive use of the facility but only during their requested blackout period (i.e. during show preparation and event dates).

The Thorold Museum is currently leasing the upstairs floor, which will remain in place until they no longer require this space for storage.

The Allanburg Community Centre is in need of significant repairs and upgrades. The City’s Draft Asset Management Plan has identified the need for improvements (See Appendix 1). Over the next two (2) years, the total estimated replacement costs excluding engineering, contingency and HST totals \$969,350. Depending on the scope of the project, the time for completion is expected to range from 6-12 months.

Alternatives Reviewed

Alternatives include assisting the TCT find other short-term accommodations until a more permanent home could be secured.

Relationship to Strategic Plan

This recommendation is consistent with Council's Strategic Priorities;

- Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning
- Vibrant, Inclusive Neighbourhoods

Other Pertinent Reports

None.

Prepared and Recommended by:

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Services

Approved and Submitted by:

Manoj Dilwaria
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Dave Baldoni, Acting Manager of Community Services, and reviewed by Stephanie Jarvis, Program Supervisor.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Capital Replacement Costs 2023-2024