

COUNCIL – MAY 27, 2014

**AWARD OF RFP14-084
FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR NORTH MAPLE REGIONAL PARK
WARD 1**

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Item #	13
Report No.	21(cw)
Council - May 27/14	

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Planning and the Commissioner of Finance & City Treasurer, in consultation with the Director of Parks Development, the Director of Development Finance & Investments and the Director of Purchasing recommend:

1. That RFP14-084 for Financial Advisor for North Maple Regional Park be awarded to Grant Thornton Raymond in the amount of \$114,960.00 plus applicable taxes;
2. That a 10% contingency in the amount of \$11,496.00 be approved within which the Director of Parks Development or designate is authorized to approve amendments to the contract; and,
3. That the above amounts be funded from Capital Project 5961-2-03 for North Maple Regional Park.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 2, Objective 2.2:

- To develop Vaughan as a City with maximum green space and an urban form that supports our expected population growth.

Economic Impact

Capital Project 5961-2-03 for North Maple Regional Park was approved in the 2003 Capital Budget.

On June 25, 2013 Council approved Item 46, Report No. 32 regarding North Maple Regional Park – Proposed Public Private Partnership Summary of Public Consultation. Through that approval Council directed staff to retain a financial advisor to assess the financial aspects of a potential Public Private Partnership (PPP) on the North Maple Regional Park site.

Communications Plan

Not applicable.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to award RFP14-084 – Financial Advisor for North Maple Regional Park to Grant Thornton Raymond.

Background - Analysis and Options

The North Maple Regional Park site is located on the East side of Keele Street, between Teston Road and Kirby Road. The site is approximately 81 hectares (200 acres) in size and is currently closed to public use.

The City's Active Together Master Plan for Parks, Recreation & Libraries contemplates facilities at North Maple Regional Park to include; recreation space, soccer fields, artificial turf fields, ball

diamonds, cricket pitch, tennis courts, water play, play areas, basketball courts, ice skating trail, skateboard park, trails, amphitheatre, conservatory/arboretum and garden areas.

Due to the physical size of the site and the range of possible uses, costs associated with developing and operating the park are significant. Accordingly, in January 2012 Council considered the outcomes of the community consultation process and provided direction to staff to issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) to solicit and evaluate opportunities for a PPP for the development and/or operation of all or a portion of the park, with the objective of balancing the public/private interests while achieving Council's overall vision for the park.

In April 2012, the EOI Process for PPP interests was initiated; however, this process was cancelled pending further review and consideration for moving forward as the project had been delayed.

In June 2013, Council approved the retention of a financial advisor to create a business case for the park development considering the financial implications of the various delivery models and financial arrangements associated with the PPP framework. The consultant is to advise on the most suitable service delivery models for North Maple Park considering the capital/operating budget impact, the associated property tax impacts and the risk associated with such a partnership.

The RFP was first issued late 2013 with a closing date of January 23, 2014. No Bids were received at that time. Subsequently, staff amended the RFP document to narrow the scope. New RFP14-084 was advertised on Biddingo.com, Ontario Public Buyers Association Website and city Page on March 14, 2014. One addendum was issued to provide clarifications to the proponents. The RFP closed on April 11, 2014. Five proposals were received from the following proponents:

1. Grant Thornton Raymond Chabot Infrastructure, Toronto, Ontario
2. N. Barry Lyon Consultants Limited, Toronto, Ontario
3. Elrington Castle Asset Management Toronto, Ontario
4. PricewaterhouseCooper LLP, Toronto, Ontario
5. Ernst & Young Orenda Corporate Finance Inc., Toronto, Ontario

An evaluation meeting was held on May 2, 2014 with the Evaluation Committee, comprised of staff from the Parks Development, Development Finance & Investments and Budgeting and Financial Planning Departments. The proposals were evaluated against the following criteria:

Qualifications, experience and availability of specified team lead and members, in particular with municipal clients involving similar undertakings	20
Demonstrated experience with providing financial advice on a PPP from planning stage to fruition with emphasis on municipal specific PPPs	20
Experience and knowledge of financial analysis/modeling	5
Project schedule indicating the ability to complete the deliverables within the required time period	15
Experience and knowledge of risk assessment	10
Experience and knowledge of municipal procurement processes	10
Fees stated in the proposal submission	20
Total	100

Evaluation Results

Proposals from the five (5) firms were evaluated by the Evaluation Committee. Grant Thornton Raymond ranked first in the overall scoring.

Grant Thornton Raymond is a well-established accounting firm with significant experience in financial analysis, business analytics and PPP projects. Based on the evaluation of the proposals, it is recommended that the proposal submitted by Grant Thornton Raymond be accepted and that an Agreement be executed.

RFP14-084 Financial Advisor for North Maple Regional Park	
Financial Summary 5961-2-03	
Approved Capital Budget	2,028,000.00
Less: Expenses/ Commitments to Date (Rounded)	59,068.00
Current Funds Remaining	1,968,932.00
RFP Costs (RFP14-084)	114,960.00
Provisional items	N/A
Sub-Total	114,960.00
Contingency Allowance (10%)	11,496.00
Sub-Total	126,456.00
*Non Refundable Portion of HST (1.76%)	N/A
Sub-Total	126,456.00
Administration Recovery (3%)*	3,793.68
Total RFP Costs	130,249.68
Balance Remaining	1,838,682.32

*Permitting parks receive a full HST rebate, and therefore, HST (1.76%) is not included in project cost calculations.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020 / Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the project will provide:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**
Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery; and Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness - To deliver high quality services and to promote health and wellness through design and program.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated.

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Based on the RFP submissions reviewed by the Evaluation Committee, it is proposed that the RFP be awarded to Grant Thornton Raymond in the amount of \$114,960.00 plus contingency.

Upon award of this RFP, it is anticipated that this project will commence within (10) working days from the Date of Notification of Award and is planned to be completed in a timeline to accommodate a report back to Council in September 2014 on the financial considerations of a PPP for the North Maple Regional Park.

Attachments

Not applicable.

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,



John MacKenzie
Commissioner of Planning



John Henry
Commissioner of Finance & City Treasurer