

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Jun22\_2021**

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### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**

#### **Strathcona County Museum and Archives Functional Plan**

##### **Report Purpose**

To present the Priorities Committee with the Strathcona County Museum and Archives Functional Plan, prepared by Prairie Wild Consulting Inc.

##### **Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 6 - Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

##### **Report**

In 2019 Prairie Wild Consulting Inc. was contracted to complete a Functional Plan for a new Strathcona County Museum and Archives. The plan is aligned with Strathcona County's strategic priorities and links to other County plans and initiatives. A museum and archives are identified within the Strathcona County Recreation and Culture Strategy.

Targeted interviews with 41 participants conducted through 2020-21 identified common key elements of importance:

- Tell the unique story of Strathcona County;
- Provide interactive, hands-on, and tactile programming;
- An archive of excellence;
- Ensure universal design and accessibility for all visitors;
- Ensure bus access, parking and public transit service;
- Incorporate flexible space;
- Partnerships; and
- Clustering the museum and archive with other cultural institutions in Centre in the Park (CITP), while maintaining strong connections to rural infrastructure.

Drawing on the interview responses as well as extensive research, the plan incorporates best and promising practices in museums management and references operations in similar size municipalities. Recommendations across key areas and next steps to achieving success are provided.

##### **Next Steps**

- Provide the plan to all departments impacted by the project so it can be properly evaluated.
- Continue to liaise with Strathcona County Heritage Foundation Board and Strathcona County Museum and Archives staff members.
- Undertake a feasibility study to help determine the vision, scope, and when a new museum and archives can be realized in Strathcona County.
- Provide an update to Council when the Feasibility Study is complete.

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### **Council and Committee History**

Feb. 11, 2020	Council received an update on the Strathcona County Museum and Archives functional plan process.
Dec. 6, 2018	Council approved the following motion: "That the 2019 Consolidated Operating Budget (including a .83 percent municipal tax revenue increase) as set out in Enclosure 1, Section 6.1.2 on the October 29, 2018 Council Budget Meeting Agenda, be adopted."
Oct. 23, 2018	Priorities Committee was presented with the consultants' report on the operations of Strathcona County Museum and Archives.
Feb. 27, 2018	Council approved the following motion: "That a contribution of up to \$125,000 funded from the Cultural Development Fund Reserve (R12), to offset one-time investment for emergent issues in 2018 at the Strathcona County Museum and fund consultant costs to develop options for sustainability of the Museum facility, be approved."

### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** Cultural Services Policy SER-011-012

**Legislative/Legal:** N/A

**Interdepartmental:** Facility Services, Planning and Development Services, Human Resources, Communications

**Master Plan/Framework:** Recreation and Culture Strategy, Social Sustainability Framework

### **Communication Plan**

- Administration will meet with the Board of the Strathcona County Heritage Foundation to further discuss the consultants' report and next steps.
- Stakeholders who contributed to the report will be contacted and provided with the report.
- A media release will be issued.

### **Enclosure(s)**

1	Strathcona County Museum and Archives Functional Plan
2	Appendix A. Regional Context Report
3	Appendix B. Promising Practices Summary
4	Appendix C. What We Heard Report
5	Strathcona County Museum and Archives Functional Plan Presentation