



PORT COLBORNE

**City of Port Colborne
Council Meeting Addendum**

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

Pages

8. Staff Reports

8.1 2023 Nickel Beach Parking and Related Operations, 2023-32

*a. Delegation from Shawn Tedder, resident

*b. Written Delegation material from Melissa Bigford, resident

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*8.7 Proposed Lock 8 Illuminated Marquee Sign, 2023-41

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Melissa Bigford & Christopher Lofquist
173 Chippawa Rd.
Port Colborne, Ont.
L3K1T6

February 28, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of Council,

We are writing this letter in regards to unanswered questions and concerns with Report #2023-23 Nickel Beach parking and related operations.

First of all after decades of seasonal beach operation and parking why did the Ministry of the Environment all of a sudden decide to show such concern and regard for the Fowler Toad and to immediately restrict beach parking and access? Were all the existing operational protocols, approvals and permits maintained and acquired before grading, grooming and expansion of the beach; especially of the environmentally sensitive areas?

How will these new restrictions impact Splashtown Niagara, there operations and the contract the city signed with them? Will there be a cost to taxpayers?

The other major concern is in relation to the spending of \$1.3 million on parking lots! Do staff and council believe that visitors will pay to park and hike more than a km on foot, kids in tow hauling all their equipment to the beach? The road is narrow with no sidewalks; where is the concern for pedestrian safety? There is no cost breakdown for how staff reached this number yet it is stated in the report it may have to come back to council for additional approvals regarding construction and/or beach operations under special meetings of Council; indicating other costs associated with moving forward!

Why were several options and cost breakdowns not presented to council to consider? A proposal to include work on Lot B, C, D leaving out Lot A which requires the most work to create would also give time to see how the parking changes are reflected in visitor attendance. There is also the question of the extensive encroachment issues surrounding Lot A, the private homeowner and the unknown cost of purchasing this property in the future to the tax levy or another depletion of the infrastructure reserve?

In conclusion, the above questions and concerns regarding this report to council and how we got to this situation should be addressed before approving this report!

Sincerely,

Melissa Bigford and Christopher Lofquist



Subject: Proposed Lock 8 Illuminated Marquee Sign

To: Council

From: Public Works Department

Report Number: 2023-41

Meeting Date: February 28, 2023

Recommendation:

That Public Works Department Report 2023-41 be received; and

That Council approve the installation of the proposed illuminated marquee sign as outlined in this report.

Purpose:

The Main Street Business Improvement Area (BIA) has been successful in receiving a grant from the Tourism Relief Fund to install an illuminated marquee sign in Lock 8 Park along Main Street West. The sign is intended to become a community focal point drawing tourists to the park and Main Street business area. Staff are seeking Council's support on the installation and location of the marquee sign.

Background:

The Main Street BIA applied for the Tourism Relief Fund in 2022. As a result of the grant, the BIA was successful in acquiring \$26,000 towards an illuminated marquee sign displaying the City name, Port Colborne. The BIA retained the services of Harrison Solutions to fabricate the sign for \$22,500 leaving \$3,500 to offset the cost of installing the concrete foundation and electrical service. The funding is required to be spent no later than the end of March 2023 although the Main Street BIA is currently requesting a timeline extension.

Discussion:

The City will be supporting the sign installation by obtaining/completing the following project components:

- Applicable permits
- Shop drawings for the concrete foundation
- Installation of the concrete foundation
- Electrical supply
- Sightline review

The costs of the work outlined above is estimated to be \$15,000. The outstanding portion will be funded through the Parks & Trails operating budget. This budget contains dedicated funds for asset replacements such as soccer nets, baseball field fencing, street furniture (benches, bicycle racks, waste receptacles), and new initiatives for parks, trails, and sports field enhancements.

The marquee sign will become an asset of the City upon completion with the repairs, maintenance, and utilities being borne by the City.

Internal Consultations:

Staff have reviewed this project with Economic Development to ensure there are no conflicts with proposed future development. Staff agree this is a beneficial initiative to bring attention to the Main Street BIA.

Infrastructure staff have reviewed the installation location and have further isolated the area to ensure the sign does not interfere with driver sightlines as vehicles exit Lock 8 Park onto Main Street West.

Corporate Communications has reviewed the submission and stated the sign is acceptable based on its size and design. The LED lighting will have the functionality to change colours which will be in the sole control of Corporate Communications.

Building Services commented on the need for a structural drawing for the base, a site plan, and a letter of authorization from the Seaway.

Financial Implications:

The Main Street BIA has received \$26,000 from the Tourism Relief Fund. Harrison CNC Solutions has been retained by the Main Street BIA to create the marquee sign at a cost of \$22,500. The remaining \$3,500 of grant funding will be utilized to offset the \$15,000 installation cost, leaving \$11,500 to be funded from the Parks & Trails operating budget.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
 - City-Wide Investments in Infrastructure and Recreational/Cultural Spaces
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Conclusion:

The proposed illuminated marquee sign is a unique way to attract tourism to Port Colborne through innovative and creative design creating a sense of pride for residents.

Appendices:

- a. General Location Map
- b. Marquee Sign Rendering

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.



