

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST 13, 2019.
FROM:	SCOTT STAFFORD MANAGING DIRECTOR, PARKS & RECREATION and LYNNE LIVINGSTONE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER ACTING MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN & FIRE SERVICES
SUBJECT:	EAST COMMUNITY CENTRE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Parks and Recreation and the Deputy City Manager/Acting Managing Director, Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services, the following report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

- Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (Jun. 2019)
- East Community Centre Tender 17-67 Project #P015-RC2756 (CPSC - Oct 11, 2017)
- Update on East Community Centre Build Project (CPSC – Jun. 2017)
- Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan – Interim Update (CPSC - Jan. 2017)
- Architect to Act as Prime Consultant for the East Community Centre (CPSC - Dec. 2015)
- Update on East Community Centre Build Project (CPSC - Dec. 2015)
- Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan Update (CPSC - Nov. 2009)

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES 2019-2023

Strengthening our Community: The new community centre will play a significant role in strengthening the local neighbourhood of Argyle and the larger district including Huron Heights, East London, Hamilton Road, Glen Cairn, Westminster, and Jackson that it will serves by creating opportunities for residents to lead healthy, socially active lives.

Building a Sustainable City: Creating and preserving strong and healthy environments and creating beautiful places for all Londoners will be accomplished at the new East Community Centre.

Growing Our Economy: Investment in this new community centre contributes to urban regeneration of a key community space.

Creating a Safe London for Women and Girls: The new community centre will provide the opportunity for women and girls to participate safely in social and recreation opportunities.

Leading in Public Service: A range of city services will now be available and allow the city to provide services within a previously underserved area of the city.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the construction of the East Community Centre at 1731 Churchill Avenue and provide a new expected completion date and reasons for the delay.

The East Community Centre will feature an indoor pool, gymnasium, activity room, multi-purpose community space, community kitchen, and artisan space and will serve the broad community in the East and Southeast areas of the city.

Since the last update to Council earlier this year, which indicated an opening date of September 2019, there have been some further delays and the new anticipated opening is in early 2020. Several issues are contributing to this revised opening including delays in enclosing the building (due to structural steel issues outlined previously), a significant number of bad weather days, and some industry-wide labour issues that have now been resolved. The combination of not being able to work on the building and not having the labour to do the work has resulted in significant delays throughout the construction process.

A comprehensive communications strategy has been developed and currently includes monthly construction updates, program updates, and is generally building excitement about the upcoming opening within the community. Posters, postcards, and other digital media resources have been developed. The Fall/Winter Recreation Guide was released on August 5th and includes registered community centre and gymnasium programs at the East Community Centre starting on February 3rd and aquatics programs starting on February 25th. Once fit-out and staff training is complete, the community centre can open for drop in programs ahead of the registered program offerings in February. City staff will continue to update the community and build media interest with opportunities for tours, videos, drop-in programs, and the grand opening of the building in early 2020.

An update on the adjacent park construction project in East Lions park is contained in the tender closing report to Community and Protective Services Committee August 13, 2019. It is anticipated that work in the park will begin in September 2019.

CONCLUSION

The East Community Centre is expected to open in early 2020, with registered programming to start in February. The building will open to the public as soon as construction, fit out and staff training is complete with drop-in programs. Staff will continue to update the community on progress of the building and communicate opportunities for tours, drop in programming and the grand opening.

SUBMITTED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
TIM WELLHAUSER DIVISION MANAGER, FACILITIES	SCOTT STAFFORD MANAGING DIRECTOR, PARKS AND RECREATION
RECOMMENDED BY:	CONCURRED BY:
LYNNE LIVINGSTONE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER ACTING MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN AND FIRE SERVICES	ANNA LISA BARBON MANAGING DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES AND CITY TREASURER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

cc: Donna Baxter, Manager, Policy & Planning
Lynn Loubert, Division Manager, Aquatics and Arenas
Paul D'Hollander, Manager, Neighbourhood Operations
John Devito, Manager, Facilities Design & Construction