EXPRESSION OF INTEREST 2021-EOI1

FORMER CHERRY BROOK ZOO (901 Foster Thurston Drive/ Adjacent to Rockwood Park)

The Context

In 1978, the Cherry Brook Zoo (the "Zoo") opened at the northern edge of Rockwood Park and has been a part of the City's culture until its recent announcement that it was ceasing its operations. As a result of the recent closure of the Zoo, the City of Saint John (the "City") is seeking to re-establish a new vision/business opportunity for potentially 30 acres of land (the "Property") on the periphery of City owned Rockwood Park (see attached proposed Subdivision Plan). This area consists of natural forested lands in Millidgeville, near the Saint John Regional Hospital, University of New Brunswick Saint John campus and the Rockwood Park Golf Course. The footprint for the former Zoo facility is currently fenced and has several shelter structures and two, year-round buildings.

As part of a significant, naturally landscaped space near urban areas of the City, this site is viewed by the City as having great potential for outdoor recreational activities that would contribute to more meaningful utilization of this area by the general public and the local economy. Although the Property is outside of the Rockwood Park boundaries, with the right vision and operator/tenant, development of this Property will support other amenities located in the Rockwood Park, including the vast trail system that is in place.

As such, the City is seeking Expressions of Interest from experienced business operators/entrepreneurs interested in a long-term lease who have the right vision and project along with the financial capacity to establish and operate independently of support from the City. Pursuant to the City's Zoning By-law, the subject property is located in the Park (P) zone, which permits a variety of uses which are considered appropriate for this area. An excerpt of the Zoning By-law detailing the permitted uses in the Park (P) zone is attached. The site is also designated as Park and Natural Area in the Municipal Plan

The Process

This is not a call for Tenders or a Request for Proposals.

Proponents shall submit a written Expression of Interest which, at a minimum, shall address those items listed below in "Information About Proponents".

Expressions of Interest shall be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m., A.D.T., Wednesday, March 31st, 2021.

Responses to this Request for Expressions of Interest shall be submitted digitally to:

chris.roberts@saintjohn.ca

All inquiries regarding this Request for Expressions of Interest shall be submitted to:

chris.roberts@saintjohn.ca

All submissions and inquiries shall be clearly labelled as: "Former Cherry Brook Zoo – EOI No. 2021-EOI1"

Once it completes the evaluation of the Expressions of Interests, the City reserves the right to invite some or all proponents to a confidential interview to clarify or further discuss the Expression of Interest. The City reserves the right to reject any or all of the Expressions of Interest and to not proceed to the interview with any proponent.

If the City choses to interview proponents pursuant to its reserved rights, the confidential interviews will be held during normal business hours sometime after March 31, 2021.

Information About Proponents

Each proponent shall provide the following information:

- 1. An overview of the proposal including a description of proposed amenities or services to be offered and a high level business plan that includes funding requirements.
- 2. A company profile, including the type and nature of the company, years in business, areas of operation, related experience, and any other relevant information;
- 3. Evidence of the proponent's experience leasing, operating or developing similar properties; and
- 4. Evidence of the proponent's ability, financial resources and necessary qualifications to lease, operate or develop the Property.

Reserved Rights

- a) The City of Saint John reserves the right to invite some or all proponents to a confidential interview to clarify or further discuss their Expression of Interest.
- b) The City of Saint John reserves the right to reject any or all of the Expressions of Interest and to not proceed to the interview with any proponent.

- c) The City reserves the right to short list the proponents in this Request for Expression of Interest process to a minimum of 3 proponents who best address the intent of the opportunity herein described and who provide what the City deems to be the best solution to the City's needs.
- d) The City of Saint John does not, by virtue of this Request for Expressions of Interest, commit to pursuing this matter any further, and reserves the right to call for competitive bids, in the form of a Tender or Request for Proposals utilizing any and all information gained throughout this process.



14.1 Park (P) Zone

Municipal Plan Context

Plansj

The Park (P) zone accommodates a range of recreational activities and supportive commercial uses.

The Park (P) zone is intended mainly for land inside the Primary Development Area in an appropriate designation.

14.1(1) Permitted Uses

Any land, building, or structure may be used for the purposes of, and for no other purpose than, the following:

- Agricultural Use, subject to subsection 14.1(3);
- Bed and Breakfast, subject to section 9.2;
- Cemetery;
- Community Centre;
- Day Care Centre;
- Dwelling, Existing;
- Equestrian Facility, subject to subsection 14.1(3);
- Farmers Market;
- Home Occupation, subject to section 9.9;
- Interpretive Centre;
- Recreation Facility;
- Restaurant, without a Lounge license under the Liquor Control Act;
- Supportive Housing, subject to section 9.14;
- Zoo;
- The *existing* use described in Schedule E: Exceptions, of each lot respectively, identified therein as being located in the P zone.

14.1(2) Conditional Uses

Any land, building, or structure may be used for the purposes of, and for no other purpose than, the following subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the Committee:

- Commercial Recreation;
- Cultural Establishment;
- Exhibition Grounds.





14.1(3) Conditions of Use

An Agricultural Use or Equestrian Facility permitted in subsection 14.1(1) shall be subject to the following:

- (a) The total number of the following domestic animals kept on a lot, excluding their young under the age of six months, shall be:
 - (i) In the case of a goat, horse, pony, or sheep, or any combination thereof, up to two such animals provided the lot has a minimum area of 6,000 square metres and a minimum lot frontage of 75 metres, and for each additional animal a further 2,000 square metres of lot area provided the lot has a minimum frontage of 90 metres; and
 - (ii) In the case of a cow, a maximum of two cows provided the lot has a minimum area of 20,000 square metres and a minimum lot frontage of 180 metres.
- (b) Any stable, building, enclosure, or structure where an above-mentioned domestic animal is kept shall be located at least 22 metres from any common property line or 15 metres of any dwelling on the same lot.

14.1(4) Zone Standards





- (k) No parking or outdoor display area shall be permitted within a required setback.
- (I) Other Requirements

In accordance with the General Provisions, Parts 4-9

