



Subject: Roselawn Theatre Management Agreement

To: Council

From: Chief Administrative Office

Report Number: 2021-115

Meeting Date: April 12, 2021

Recommendation:

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-115 be received; and

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement with Lighthouse Festival Theatre Corporation for the management of the theatre at the Roselawn Centre.

Purpose:

This report is presented to Council to seek approval for the City to enter into an agreement with Lighthouse Theatre Corporation (Lighthouse) to manage the theatre at the City's Roselawn Centre (Roselawn).

Background:

The Roselawn Centre in Port Colborne is the home of an historic mansion and a 270-seat theatre. In the past, the theatre housed productions by Showboat Festival Theatre (Showboat) as well as independent promoters.

Subsequently, after Showboat ceased operations, Lighthouse continued to produce live theatre under the "Showboat" name.

Several years ago, City Staff and representatives of Lighthouse began informal discussions about transferring responsibly to administer the theatre-based components of the facility to Lighthouse under a management agreement. This option was presented to City Council at several closed meetings as well as in a public report on March 9, 2020, and Council directed staff to continue to negotiate a management agreement for the facility with Lighthouse.

Discussion:

City staff from the Community and Economic Development Department were responsible for the Roselawn Centre and, therefore, the negotiations with Lighthouse. Lighthouse was very active in the negotiations of the management agreement and remained patient during staff changes at the City, changing priorities and competing demands on City staff, numerous legal and staff reviews of the draft agreement, and the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently, contract negotiations were again delayed by the restructuring at the City that resulted in the Community and Economic Development Department being eliminated and the various facilities and divisions administered by that department being assigned to other departments within the City. After this final action, responsibility for the completion of the task was assigned to the Chief Administrative Officer – again, Lighthouse was very patient with further delays. Finally, the draft agreement was endorsed by both parties and is now ready for a signature from the City's Mayor and Clerk.

Lighthouse representatives have executed the agreement and provided a copy to the City for execution. Council must authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement by approving this staff report.

Internal Consultations:

The agreement has been reviewed by a number of staff including Community and Economic Development staff, the City's Economic Development Officer, and the Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer. The agreement was also reviewed by the City's law firm, Sullivan Mahoney.

Financial Implications:

The City will pay Lighthouse a management fee of \$25,000 plus HST per year. The City will also continue to be responsible for utilities, grounds maintenance and capital repairs to the theatre. Lighthouse will take on responsibility for general maintenance of the portions of the building governed by the agreement.

Conclusion:

Staff believe that the attached agreement satisfies the direction of Council from past meetings. Lighthouse has been a willing partner during the preparation of this

agreement and is anxious to continue to offer programming in Port Colborne under the provisions of the agreement.

Appendices:

- a. Appendix A - Final Agreement – executed by Lighthouse

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Luey
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Report Approval:

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