

Pros and Cons of the City Becoming a Partner in an Edmonton Land Trust Part 9 Company

Recommendation:

That the June 14, 2006 Report “Pros and Cons of the City Becoming a Partner in an Edmonton Land Trust Part 9 Company” be received for information.

Report Summary

- This is an information report outlining the pros and cons of the City becoming a partner in an Edmonton Land Trust Part 9 Company.

Previous Council/Committee Action

- At the June 13, 2006 meeting of the Transportation and Public Works Committee it was moved that Administration provide a follow-up report identifying the pros and cons of the City becoming a partner in an Edmonton Land Trust Part 9 Company.

Report

This report is in response to a question from a Councillor at the Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting held June 13, 2006.

Pros

- Would permit the City active involvement in the development of the Land Trust, including mandate, an appropriate decision-making process, future members, and future direction, including regional expansion
- Other partners, all of which are responsible conservation organizations within the Edmonton community, have requested City involvement

- City has access to resources and expertise that could be contributed to the successful development of a Land Trust
- Land Trust policies and initiatives could complement the Conservation Plan currently being developed by the Office of Natural Areas, as well as the City’s Natural Areas Acquisition Program
- The City would have a seat at the table to make decisions and provide input to the development of strategy on natural area acquisition
- Major land policy decisions are made within Edmonton boundaries and Council may wish to have a governance role, including a role in choosing Officers and Directors of the Land Trust
- Council determines the board members that represents the City
- Council could divest its interests in the future (ie. no longer be a member of the board or owner)

Cons

- Reliance by other partners on City expertise in areas such as drainage, acquisitions and planning, and potential for reliance on employees from Transportation and Asset Management and Public Works Departments to perform maintenance and stewardship functions for the Land Trust
- Involvement would likely require an ongoing monetary commitment
- The City is perceived as having the most resources
- Citizens have an inherent distrust of government involvement that could hinder the success of the Land Trust

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- Insurance and other governance responsibilities may be reliant on City's administrative structure including risk management and finance
- In the unlikely event of dissolution, it could be difficult for the City to support regional expansion, as land ownership outside of a municipality is prohibited without consent of the municipality from which land is being acquired
- In the event of future regional expansion, the City would want to assess the value of its contribution, which is difficult to quantify; the other partners are not limited by municipal borders.

WHEN YOUR REPORT IS COMPLETE, PLEASE PRESS ALT-F12 FOR REPORT VALIDATION.