



INFORMATION REQUEST

INFORMATION REQUEST #: IR-22-25

REQUESTED BY: Councillor Stevenson

TOPIC: Ag Society Archives

DATE OF REQUEST: Prior to the GPC Meeting 2025

DATE OF RESPONSE: November 17, 2025

QUESTION:

The removal of the opportunity for the Ag Society to have one time funding to digitize the archives. It's noted it was removed and should be made a business case.

With the heritage plan coming forward, is it possible to approve this as a business case this year?

Response

There were a lot of questions and uncertain information that came forward originally for the one-time archives request. In fact, the original request was made by one particular board member without the knowledge of the overall Board and/or President. For example, some of the information received was that the funding was for a position to address this work with the hope that the position may be made permanent at a later date. There have also been several conversations as to who ultimately holds the responsibility for city historical archives (i.e. a separate non-profit or municipal responsibility). Based on several uncertainties and questions around the proposal, it was determined to have further conversations in late 2025 and early 2026 and potentially put forward consideration for 2027 with an agreed upon scope and support from the entire Board. Additionally, there are still several grants that may be applicable for this particular initiative and Community Development staff are working with the Ag Society on this.

Council could ultimately approve to add funding (or switch from other funding), for such an initiative; however, Administration cannot confidently provide a fulsome and specific scope/outcome as currently being proposed.

Background

Shared in the response above

Financial Implications/Taxation Impact

As outlined in the budget presentation and business case.

Contact: Deb Comfort, Director, Recreation and Culture