



**CITY OF KINGSTON**  
**INFORMATION REPORT TO ARTS, RECREATION AND  
COMMUNITY POLICIES COMMITTEE**

**Report No.: ARCP-12-002**

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**TO:** Chair and Members of Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee

**FROM:** Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Same

**DATE OF MEETING:** January 26, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Occupy Kingston Space Option

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In December 2011, Council directed staff to report back to the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee in January with potential options for space that could be utilized by Occupy Kingston.

In late December and January, staff initiated a search of City facilities that could possibly meet the needs of Occupy Kingston. Staff also met with representatives of Occupy Kingston in January to discuss their needs for space. Occupy Kingston now has formed a Board of Directors and has applied for "Not-for-Profit" status. Occupy Kingston has also started to offer services and programs through its Open Action Centre project. Occupy Kingston indicated its interest to work closely with other not-for-profit organizations, including the Community Garden Network.

Occupy Kingston indicated that a space of approximately 1,000 square feet, centrally located, would be ideal for the short term. Meeting space is currently available at a number of city facilities, including INVISTA Centre and Artillery Park, for a short term basis of up to 2 hours per week. This meeting space would not be exclusive and would not be secured. In the time frame provided by Council, the Memorial Centre was the only space identified by staff that could possibly meet the short term needs of Occupy Kingston. Occupy Kingston viewed this option favourably, as it is centrally located and provides an opportunity to maximize its partnership with the Community Garden Network.

In reviewing the space option at the Memorial Centre, staff identified 500 square feet that could be made available. According to the Revenue Leasing and Licensing Policy, the City would have to make the space available to all potential community groups with needs. A direct allocation of space to Occupy Kingston would not be compliant with the Policy recently approved by Council.

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The 500 square feet of space, including a storage area that could be made available to Occupy Kingston is not in a state of readiness to enable occupancy. Improvements would be necessary at an estimated cost of \$5,000 including painting, carpeting and phone lines. Additional space could possibly be made available through a partnership with the Community Garden Network, which is a Licensee at Memorial Centre until Summer 2012, at which time it will be reviewed, in the context of both its needs and City policy.

In addition, staff has also identified currently available meeting room space at INVISTA Centre and Artillery Park. This meeting room space can accommodate about forty (40) people and is available once per week for a period of two (2) hours. It is important to note that these spaces are not secured and not exclusive to Occupy Kingston.

Staff has provided this report as information at this time in response to Council's direction. Staff will await further direction from council on this matter, once it has an opportunity to receive this information.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information report only.

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**AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER <hr/> Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER <hr/> Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

**CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:**

Cynthia Beach, <i>Sustainability &amp; Growth</i>	N/A
Denis Leger, <i>Transportation, Properties &amp; Emergency Services</i>	
Jim Keech, <i>President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</i>	N/A

***(N/R indicates consultation not required)***

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**OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

On December 20, 2011, City of Kingston Council passed the following motion:

**WHEREAS** on October 15, 2011 people all over the world took to the streets to join together in a non violent global protest, in regards to political, social and environmental injustice; and

**WHEREAS** in many cities throughout the world protesters have raised tents in city parks to support the Occupy Movement; and

**WHEREAS** on October 15, 2011 Occupy Kingston protestors occupied and continue to occupy a high profile area of the City's Confederation Park without the permission of the City and in contravention of the City's by-laws regulating the use of parks installed numerous tarps over the Confederation Park stage canopy framework creating a large structure within which a number of tents and other camping equipment and facilities were erected and used to camp and live in; and

**WHEREAS** Kingston residents and businesses have exercised patience for over six weeks but are becoming increasingly concerned about the negative impact of the protestors act of appropriating for their own use a high profile portion of public space in the City's Confederation Park with every indication that they intend to remain for a number of months;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Occupy Kingston protestors be requested to cease camping and to remove all shelters, tents, equipment and debris from Confederation Park by not later than 12:01 a.m. on Friday, December 9, 2011 and to refrain from carrying out any of those activities in other city parks and municipally owned public spaces; and

**THAT** in the event that the Occupy Kingston protestors do not comply with the foregoing request from City Council, that City of Kingston staff be directed to take appropriate actions to enforce applicable municipal by-laws including By-Law 2009-076, a By-Law to provide for the regulation of use of parks and recreational facilities of the Corporation of the City of Kingston; and

**THAT** the protestors be informed that they and all members of the Public are welcomed in the parks to exercise their democratic rights and enjoy the parks but will not be allowed to camp or to use any camping equipment including but not limited to shelters, tents, sleeping bags, barbecues or any other equipment that would be in contravention of By-Law 2009-076; and

**THAT** the Council for the City of Kingston acknowledge the concerns of the Occupy Kingston Movement and continue to work as diligently as possible on matters of concern to the Movement that are within the City's jurisdiction; and

**THAT** Occupy Kingston be invited to attend the January 26<sup>th</sup> Arts, Recreation, and Community Policies Committee meeting to present their plans for using any space granted for community development; and

**THAT** staff be directed to explore potential locations and report back to the January 26<sup>th</sup> Arts, Recreation, and Community Policies Committee meeting with possibilities.

**Occupy Kingston Operation**

Occupy Kingston has initiated the Open Source Action Centre which is its first project. The objective of Open Source Action Centre is to reduce downstream e-waste through the refurbishment/reuse of donated computer technology. Equipment for reuse will be available at low or no cost to both less class-privileged students and Kingston community members. Occupy Kingston would create new systems, software, networks and devices for community and activist groups of Kingston to use as tools in their fight against oppression.

Occupy Kingston also identified other projects in progress which include:

1. Kingston Meshnet, a versatile, decentralized network built on secure protocols for routing traffic over private mesh or public internetworks independent of a central supporting infrastructure. Using existing open source, peer-to-peer and other technologies, Occupy Kingston would install a network of servers across Kingston.
2. Open Source Ecology Community (OSEC) is an enterprise community of economically-interdependent stakeholders, specialized in their respective areas of production, and combining to a complete or nearly complete a package of local, resilient production ability.

The baseline for such production is complete production capacity for these infrastructures based on local resources:

- a. food
- b. energy
- c. housing
- d. fuel
- e. land transportation vehicles
- f. fabrication capacity
- g. significant portion of raw materials production, including rubber, ceramics, glass, metal, plastics, fiber, and cementitious building materials

Occupy Kingston also indicated its intent of working closely with other not-for-profit organizations to provide support services including information technology support. Occupy Kingston mentioned that it also plans to work very closely with the Community Garden Network and other community garden associations within the City.

**Space Requirement**

In response to Council's direction, staff met with members of Occupy Kingston to better understand its needs for space. Considering the programs that are planned to be delivered, Occupy Kingston identified the need to operate within a secure space. Occupy Kingston indicated a space providing approximately 1,000 square feet centrally located would be ideal for the short term. Occupy Kingston would eventually like to own its own building to deliver a wider variety of programs. The Memorial Centre was the only location identified as a potential short term location that could possibly meet the needs of Occupy Kingston.

In reviewing space available at the Memorial Centre, staff suggests that approximately 500 square feet could be made available for Occupy Kingston and potential additional space if it is in part shared with the Community Garden Network. It should be noted that the space currently occupied by the Community Garden Network was provided as a City contribution to a program subsidized by the Province. This program and partnership approved by Council in 2010 is expiring in Summer of 2012, at which time the Community Garden Network would have to be considered within the context of the City's new Revenue Leasing and Licensing Policy which includes a policy on the use of space by community groups. The Community Garden Network occupies about 325 square feet at the Memorial Centre.

City staff also identified potential space available on a weekly basis at the INVISTA Centre and Artillery Park. Meeting rooms that can accommodate 40 people would be available on a weekly basis for 2 hours per week. It is staff's understanding that although this space is available, it would not meet the programming needs of Occupy Kingston.

**Revenue Leasing and Licensing Policy**

The Revenue Leasing and Licensing Policy, approved by Council on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, sets out a fair and transparent process to make municipal space available to community organizations. Any allocation of exclusive space to an organization without following the outlined process would be non compliant with the Policy.

**EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:**

Revenue Leasing and Licensing Policy.

**NOTICE PROVISIONS:**

N/A

**ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:**

N/A

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The cost associated with renovating space at the Memorial Centre is estimated at \$5,000. This cost could be financed by the Working Fund Reserve.

**CONTACTS:**

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

613-546-4291 ext. 1231

**OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:**

Luke Follwell, Manager, Recreation Facilities

Wally Ferris, Director, Recreation and Leisure Services

Speros Kanellos, Director, Real Estate and Construction Services

**EXHIBITS ATTACHED:**

N/A