

## **Request to Approve Pleasant Hill Rink as a Municipal Project**

### **ISSUE**

The Pleasant Hill Community Association (Community Association) is partnering with the City of Saskatoon (City), through the Wintercity YXE Strategy, to construct a new community rink and warm-up building in Pleasant Hill Park. To facilitate their fundraising efforts, the Community Association is requesting this rink project be approved as a municipal project so donors may receive a tax receipt for their donations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the budget for Capital Project P.02519 be increased by \$100,000 to be funded by private donations;
2. That the installation of a community rink in Pleasant Hill Park be approved as a municipal project; and
3. That Corporate Revenue Department, Corporate Financial Services, be authorized and directed to accept donations for this project and to issue appropriate receipts to donors who contribute funds to the project.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Community Association has not had a community rink in the Pleasant Hill neighborhood for several years. A temporary rink structure used to exist next to St. Mary's Community School before the school was rebuilt on the new site for St. Mary's Community School and Wellness Centre. The previous rink structure was deemed not suitable for re-establishment at the new school location, and the community has not had a neighbourhood rink since that time.

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

The City is partnering with the Community Association to install a new community rink in Pleasant Hill Park (see Appendix 1). The desire for a new rink is the result of ongoing community engagement, undertaken by the Community Association with support of SUM Theatre. The Pleasant Hill Rink has been designated as a project through Wintercity YXE Strategy and has \$50,000 of existing funding from Capital Project P.02519, the Community Winter Strategy. Administration is recommending the capital project be increased by \$100,000 in new private donations, which will bring the budget for this project to a total of \$150,000.

Results of a public information meeting, held in October 2022, indicate residents would prefer a permanent outdoor rink be constructed with a warm-up and skate-change building in Pleasant Hill Park (see Appendix 2).

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This park currently has a large children's play structure, spray pad, seating nodes and a toboggan hill. The addition of a community rink will further enhance the recreation opportunities available to residents and re-establish a permanent outdoor rink in the neighborhood.

The Pleasant Hill Park Rink project supports the City's Wintercity YXE Strategy vision to have Saskatoon be a vibrant, prosperous and dynamic community that thrives during winter months, and works together to support an active winter lifestyle, which is inclusive and accessible for all residents. Specifically, Action 22 in the Wintercity YXE Strategy Implementation Plan calls for exploration of how outdoor spaces can be better used in winter months, and Action 24 identifies supporting development of winter amenities and facilities. When engaging with the community during the implementation plan, increasing the number of winter activity options throughout Saskatoon was identified as high priority.

The City will be taking the lead in project management, tendering and construction of this rink, and once complete, will enter into an agreement with the Community Association to provide the rink's ongoing operation and maintenance. It is expected this project will be completed by December 31, 2023.

The rink would be constructed with input from the Community Association, be entirely on City property and accessible for the nearby St. Mary's Community School.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Wintercity YXE Capital Project P.02519.01, the Community Winter Strategy, is providing \$50,000 in funding for this project. Additional financial support has also been pledged by B'nai Brith of Saskatoon and an anonymous private business donor who has come forward through the United Way of Saskatoon & Area. Subject to Council approval, these private contributions totalling \$100,000 will increase the total project budget to \$150,000.

Once completed and operational, annual operating costs of the community rink will be covered by the Community Association with support from the City in the form of an annual rink operating grant.

Sections 110 and 118 of the *Income Tax Act* provide for tax receipts issued for gifts to a municipality, to be the same as those issued for gifts to registered charities. In accepting donations where a receipt is to be issued for tax purposes, it is most important to keep in mind the following Revenue Canada definition:

“A gift for which an official donation receipt may be issued can be defined as a voluntary transfer of property without consideration. There must be a donor who freely disposes of the property and there must be a donee who receives the property given. In other words, the transfer must be freely made and no right, privilege, material benefit, or advantage may be conferred on the donor or on the person designated as the donee as a consequence of the gift.”

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For donors to claim their contribution under the *Income Tax Act*, the Community Association is requesting City Council declare construction of a community rink in Pleasant Hill Park as a municipal project and authorize the City to accept donations and issue appropriate receipts to donors (see Appendix 3). Similar recent community association municipal projects authorized by City Council include the Albert Recreation Unit Playground, the play equipment in W.J.L. Harvey Park and a lighting project in Dundonald Park.

Administration is supportive of the Community Association's fundraising efforts tied to this project and recommends City Council declare Pleasant Hill Community Rink as a municipal project to support development of an outdoor rink in Pleasant Hill Park.

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal, environmental or privacy implications identified. The project will be submitted for a Safety and CPTED Review.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Information updates on progress and installation of the Pleasant Hill Community Rink project will be provided to residents of the Pleasant Hill neighbourhood, through the Community Association's newsletter, website and other means of communication.

The timelines for the project are as follows:

- Detailed design, costing and construction-planning is scheduled for the first quarter of 2023;
- Advertising of construction tender and award is planned for the second quarter of 2023; and
- Construction projected to begin in the second half of 2023 and completed by year end.

### **APPENDICES**

1. Pleasant Hill Park – Potential Rink Location
2. Pleasant Hill Community Rink – Engagement Event – Community Feedback Summary
3. Pleasant Hill Community Association Letter of Request

### **REPORT APPROVAL**

Written by: Lisa Thibodeau, Neighborhood Services Section Manager  
Reviewed by: Chris Schulz, Planning Project Services Manager  
Andrew Roberts, Director of Recreation and Community Development  
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services

SP/2023/RCD/PDCS/Request to Approve Pleasant Hill Rink as a Municipal Project/cm/gs