
Recreation and Parks Master Plan – Facilities Game Plan Capital Priorities – Proposed Plan for Funding Strategy Including Partnership Reserve

Recommendation

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

1. That the two recreation and parks partnership capital priorities, identified in this report for partial funding in 2018, be approved pending approval of the allocation of surplus from the Neighbourhood Land Development Fund to the proposed new Recreation and Parks Funding Plan;
2. That the Administration report back in 2018 during the preparation of the 2019 Business Plan and Budget on a comprehensive Recreation and Parks Funding Plan;
3. That the proposed overview and intent of the Recreation, Sport, Culture, and Parks Partnership Reserve, as outlined in this report, be endorsed; and
4. That pending endorsement of the overview of the Partnership Reserve, the Administration be directed to formalize the Recreation, Sport, Culture, and Parks Partnership Reserve, regarding major and minor partnership contingency funds, for inclusion in Reserves for Future Expenditures Policy No. C03-003.

Topic and Purpose

This report is to provide an overview of the proposed plan for funding City of Saskatoon and partnership-led recreation and parks priorities, as well as an overview of the purpose and intent of major and minor partnership funds, all a direct result of recommendations within the Recreation and Parks Facilities Game Plan (updated October 2017). The term “recreation” is understood to include sport, recreation, fitness, arts, culture, and leisure amenities.

Report Highlights

1. The Administration has finalized the 2017 Recreation and Parks Facilities Game Plan (Game Plan), a long-range capital plan of prioritized recreation and parks amenities, and has confirmed capital priorities, including consideration of partnership project opportunities.
2. Partnership funds were identified within the Game Plan as a way to proactively allow the City of Saskatoon (City) to respond to partnership opportunities and inform the market what is available from the City to support external projects. The purpose and overview of how these funds would be administered has been developed for consideration.
3. The Game Plan indicates the need for capital funding over the next 10 years or more. The Administration has proposed a plan to address the immediate 2018

capital needs, as well as a plan to report back in 2018 on a comprehensive funding strategy for all recreation and parks capital priorities, including partnership initiatives.

Strategic Goal

Under the City’s Strategic Goal of Quality of Life, this report relates to the long-term strategies of supporting community building through direct investment and ensuring existing and future leisure centres and other recreational facilities are accessible, physically and financially, and meet community needs.

Background

Development of the 2015 Recreation and Parks Master Plan (Master Plan) included identification of current demands and gaps in the provision of indoor and outdoor recreation and parks facilities and amenities.

Since the Master Plan’s initial capital priority list was produced in 2015, the Administration has continued to refine the list of recreation and parks infrastructure priorities based on additional research and data. This has culminated in completion of the Game Plan. At the September 20, 2017 special meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee (Committee), the Game Plan was put forward along with presentations from a number of community-based organizations requesting to partner with the City on the design and construction of indoor and outdoor recreation and parks amenities.

At the September 20, 2017 special meeting of the Committee, the Committee resolved, in part:

- “3. That Administration be directed to prepare a report with funding options, and to be considered at the time of the 2018 Business Plan and Budget Review.”

Following this meeting, the Administration reviewed feedback from the Committee and consulted the Parks Asset Management Plan to update some of the details and budget numbers within the Game Plan. See Attachment 1 for the updated version of the Game Plan as of October 2017.

Report

Game Plan – Capital Priorities

The Game Plan identified the top recreation and parks amenity priorities for a long-range capital plan, including approximate costs and timelines. The most immediate priorities for new or enhanced amenities are already included in the 2018 Capital Budget with an identified funding source. Subject to approval, these capital projects will be for enhancements to various sport fields and the development of a regulation-sized cricket field.

Partnership opportunities can help address some of the priorities within the Game Plan, and a more detailed summary of each potential partnership project, including project timelines and requests for City support, will be further reported on.

Of the partnership projects presented to the Committee, two immediate partnership projects currently underway with already established formal partnership arrangements with the City are the Gordie Howe Sports Complex Master Plan led by the Friends of the Bowl Foundation, and the establishment of the Children’s Discovery Museum at the Mendel Building. Both projects address priority amenities identified within the Master Plan and/or Game Plan. The Administration has worked to identify a way to provide at least partial funding support for these two projects in 2018, and will be providing a more detailed report on these two projects by year’s end.

Related to this, in a report from the Chief Financial Officer/General Manager, Asset and Financial Management Department, to the Standing Policy Committee on Finance at its October 30, 2017 meeting, there is a recommendation to allocate \$5.034 million to the proposed new Recreation and Parks Funding Plan (Funding Plan) from the remaining unallocated surplus previously declared from the Neighbourhood Land Development Fund.

Pending approval of the above recommended allocation, the Administration is further recommending, for 2018, that \$1.0 million be allocated to the Gordie Howe Sports Complex Master Plan and \$500,000 be allocated to the Children’s Discovery Museum.

Any further consideration for funding allocation would not begin until 2019, and would be subject to the approved comprehensive Funding Plan, to be tabled in 2018.

Recreation, Sport, Culture, and Parks Partnership Reserve

The City Council Strategic Priority Area of Recreation, Culture, and Leisure notes that in order for the City to address the demand for new facilities and programs, the Administration will be required to explore innovation and partnerships.

Within the Game Plan there is a recommendation for the City to support partnership opportunities as they arise by making annual contributions to both major and minor partnership funds. Ideal allotment to the major partnership fund would be in the order of \$1.0 million annually and would be part of the City’s budgeting cycle. Ideal allotment to the minor partnership fund would be up to \$250,000 annually and would enable the City to be flexible in addressing smaller-scale partnership opportunities that come up on a more ad hoc basis. Both funds would allow the City to respond to opportunities as well as inform the market what is available from the City to support external projects.

A draft overview of the intent, purpose, and application of funds for the Recreation, Sport, Culture, and Parks Partnership Reserve (Partnership Reserve) is detailed in Attachment 2. The purpose of the Partnership Reserve is to provide a source of funding for both major and minor partnership project opportunities for recreation, sport, culture, and parks capital projects connected to Master Plan or Game Plan priorities. The

Partnership Reserve will help leverage public investment in recreation and parks facilities and help meet the City's strategic intentions.

The plan for establishing the Partnership Reserve would be to phase in the funding with a \$250,000 operating contribution per year over five years, starting in 2019. Phasing in of the funding will be incorporated into the overall comprehensive Funding Plan, and will be used to help support partnership projects that have been approved by City Council.

Proposed Plan for Development of a Funding Strategy

The financial requirement for long-range capital planning based on City and community partnership projects is extensive and, as such, the Administration, as an initial step, is bringing forward interim recommendations to the 2018 Business Plan and Budget Review for consideration and approval.

The Administration will then report out in 2018 on the comprehensive Funding Plan, which will include a multi-faceted approach to securing the necessary funds to support the long-range capital plan. This will provide time to present the appropriate committee with a more detailed business plan on partnership projects, and will connect to the asset management plans already underway. The Funding Plan report will include consideration of:

- a) the City's priority for new and/or enhanced recreation and parks facilities;
- b) the City's priority for appropriate reinvestment levels identified in the upcoming asset management plans for existing parks and recreation facilities;
- c) partnership opportunities connected to addressing priorities within the Game Plan; and
- d) establishment of a Partnership Reserve for partnership opportunities.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

The development of the recreation and parks capital priorities within the Game Plan was a culmination of community engagement during development of the 2015 Master Plan; community input received through the Winter City YXE Project; the Leisure Needs Survey completed in January 2017; City Council's Strategic Priority Areas of Recreation, Culture, and Leisure; and Core Services related to parks. The Administration also met with a number of key stakeholders and potential partners to continue conversation on the supply and demand of existing recreation and parks amenities.

Policy Implications

The draft overview and intent of the Partnership Reserve for major and minor partnership projects is attached for consideration and endorsement. In addition, if endorsed, the criteria for the Partnership Reserve would need to be established within Reserves for Future Expenditures Policy No. C03-003.

Financial Implications

The financial implications of this report include the interim recommendations of a number of capital projects, already presented as projects with an identified source of funding, for consideration and approval within the 2018 Business Plan and Budget Review. Also, a recommendation for partial funding for two partnership projects, along with a potential source of funding, is presented for consideration and approval.

The Administration will be reporting back in 2018 on a comprehensive funding plan for all recreation and parks capital priorities beyond 2018. The proposed sources of funding being identified for consideration in the upcoming report, as part of the Funding Plan, will include:

- a) Neighbourhood Land Development Fund declared dividends;
- b) Parks and Recreation Levy funds, specific to the subdivision of the College Quarter and directed to the University Arena Contribution Agreement;
- c) dedicated Mill Rate funding to be phased in; and
- d) potential Federal Infrastructure Funding for specific bundled projects, from the Game Plan priority list, and based on the criteria identified in the Government of Canada's call for applications. This will most likely include such projects as:
 - i) a new leisure centre, likely to include an indoor pool, an arena (one to two pads), an indoor playground, and arts and culture program space;
 - ii) accessibility and modernization of existing leisure centres and outdoor pools; and
 - iii) sport field complexes for ball fields and multi-purpose sport fields.

The specific details and timing of each of the items noted above will be included as part of the overall Funding Plan report that the Administration will present in 2018.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no environmental, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations. A communication plan is not required at this time, but will be formalized in advance of each of the applicable capital projects, and will be project specific. Also, a copy of the finalized Game Plan will be posted on the City's website.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

Pending endorsement of the criteria for both the major and minor partnership funds, the Administration would undertake to formalize the Partnership Reserve for inclusion in Reserves for Future Expenditures Policy No. C03-003. The Administration will report back in 2018 with the comprehensive Funding Plan.

Public Notice

Public notice, pursuant to Section 3 of Public Notice Policy No. C01-021, is not required.

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Attachments

1. Recreation and Parks Facilities Game Plan – Finalized October 2017
2. Draft Recreation, Sport, Culture, and Parks Partnership Reserve – Proposed Overview

Report Approval

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Reviewed by: Randy Grauer, General Manager, Community Services Department

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