
Funding for Utilities for Willowgrove Outdoor Community Rink

Recommendation

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

1. That rink utility connections for the Willowgrove Outdoor Community Rink, in the amount of \$55,000, be included under Capital Project No. P1579 (Land Purchase – School Sites); and
2. That funding from the Willowgrove Community Centre Levy, in the amount of \$55,000, be approved.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request approval for funding in the amount of \$55,000 for utility connections for the Willowgrove Outdoor Community Rink, in order to have the rink operational for the 2018/19 winter.

Report Highlights

1. Outdoor rinks are an important component of neighbourhood recreation in Saskatoon.
2. The Willowgrove-University Heights Community Association (Community Association) has finalized plans for the installation of a community rink in Wallace Park and anticipates having the rink operational for this winter.

Strategic Goal

Under the City of Saskatoon's Strategic Goal of Quality of Life, this report supports the long-term strategy of ensuring recreation facilities are accessible and meet community needs.

Background

During its December 2, 2002 meeting, City Council adopted the concept of a Community Centre Levy. This levy was in response to decisions by the local school boards and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education (Ministry) to not provide elementary schools in two new neighbourhoods. This left residents with no community hub for neighbourhood meetings and events, and no program site for community associations and others to provide programs and services.

At its August 15, 2012 meeting, City Council resolved that "the calculation of the Community Centre Levy be based on the year-to-year cost of acquiring 8.0 acres of potential school site property in each developing neighbourhood." This levy facilitates the acquisition of land for school sites or, as an alternative, provides appropriate municipal funding for the establishment of a reasonable community centre, community

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recreation space, and opportunities at the neighborhood level in any neighbourhood where the Ministry decides that school construction is not warranted.

The Willowgrove-Holy Family Integrated School was opened in March 2015, with the City contributing up to \$3.735 million in funding from the Community Centre Levies collected for this neighborhood.

Report

Outdoor Rinks an Important Component of Neighbourhood Recreation

Outdoor rinks are an important and popular neighbourhood recreation amenity in Saskatoon. In 2017, community associations operated 52 outdoor rinks.

The majority of costs to construct a community association rink are borne by the community association. The Recreation and Community Development Division has typically provided associations with a small capital grant of \$7,500 for new rink construction. Once constructed and operating, associations are eligible for a matching grant from the City to assist with the operating costs.

Traditionally, community association rinks were constructed on school property, with water and electricity connections provided from the nearby school. Rinks on school property were typically located next to a boot room so that this could be used as a warm-up and skate-change area. There are some rinks built on City-owned park property that have utility connections from the nearby City-owned recreation unit, which is used in the winter for a warm-up and skate-change area. Community associations have never been charged for the water utility required to flood a community rink; however, they are charged for the electrical usage during the winter months.

At the Willowgrove-Holy Family Integrated School site, there was no accommodation made for a community rink on the school site property, nor were any utility connections for a future rink established. There is also no access provided that would be conducive to a warm-up and skate-change area within the facility.

The primary intent for establishing the Community Centre Levy was to support community recreation space and opportunities at the neighborhood level. Given that the Community Centre Levy is the primary source of funding for Capital Project No. P1579 (Land Purchase – School Sites), the Administration views the use of this levy funding, for connections to utilities for the community rink in the neighborhood park, as being consistent with the intent of the levy. In order to help meet the recreation needs of students and neighborhood children both during and outside school hours throughout the winter months, the Administration is recommending financial support for the installation of the utilities for the community rink in this neighborhood.

Community Rink in Wallace Park

The Recreation and Community Development Division has worked with both the Planning and Development and Building Standards Divisions to establish guidelines and an approval process for an accessory building to serve as a warm-up and skate-change

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facility next to the rink, which will house the connections for the utilities. The cost to construct and maintain this building will be paid for fully by the Community Association.

A site has been approved, and the Community Association has finalized plans for the installation of a community rink and warm-up shack, tentatively scheduled for fall 2018.

Options to the Recommendation

City Council could decide to not approve the allocation of \$55,000 to support the set-up of rink utilities for the Willowgrove Outdoor Community Rink. This would mean that the Community Association would either have to fundraise an additional \$55,000 to pay for the utility connections or decide to not operate an outdoor rink.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

For the past several years, the Community Association has been active in planning and fundraising for rink boards, rink lighting, and a change/storage building for a community rink within Wallace Park.

Communication Plan

The Community Association has been communicating rink updates to Willowgrove neighbourhood residents.

Financial Implications

This Willowgrove Community Centre Levy has a balance that is sufficient to fund this project.

The operating impact of the water is the responsibility of the City. The operating impact of electricity used for this rink is the responsibility of the Community Association and can be claimed as an expense for which they can be subsidized through a Community Association Rink Operating Grant.

Safety/Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

All new rink builds are subject to CPTED review and, as such, will be presented to the CPTED Review Committee upon completion of the design.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no policy, environmental, or privacy implications or considerations.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

The Community Association is working toward a fall 2018 completion of this project in order for the outdoor rink to be open to residents for winter 2018/19.

Public Notice

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

Attachment

1. Location of Willowgrove Outdoor Community Rink

Report Approval

Written by: Lisa Thibodeau, Neighbourhood Services Manager, Recreation and Community Development

Reviewed by: Lynne Lacroix, Director of Recreation and Community Development

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

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