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## Capital Budget No. 2102 - Father Basil Markle Park Pickleball Project – Budget Adjustment Request

### Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council that the proposed budget adjustment of \$20,000, funded from the Park Enhancement Reserve, for Capital Project No. 2102 - CY-Sportfield Development and Improvements for the Father Basil Markle Park Pickleball Project, be approved.

### Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for additional funding to be used in Capital Project No. 2102 – CY - Sportfield Development and Improvements for the Father Basil Markle Park Pickleball Project.

### Report Highlights

1. The Father Basil Markle Park Pickleball Project (Pickleball Project) will convert the current tennis and pickleball facility to a nine-court pickleball-only facility, and requires an additional \$20,000 to complete the project as planned, which is available through the Park Enhancement Reserve.

### Strategic Goal

The Strategic Goal of Quality of Life is attained by ensuring neighbourhoods are complete communities that offer a range of housing options; employment opportunities; art, culture, and recreational facilities; and other amenities. Citizens have access to facilities and programs that promote active living and enjoy the natural beauty and benefits of parks, trails, and the river valley that brings people together.

This project addresses the long-term strategy of ensuring existing and future leisure centres, and other recreational facilities, are accessible physically and financially and meet community needs. This project addresses the needs of the pickleball community for a dedicated outdoor pickleball complex that meets the current standards of play.

### Background

Pickleball is a sport that is trending in popularity within recreational and competitive environments. The mission of Pickleball Saskatchewan Inc. is to promote the game of pickleball as a game for all ages.

In 2015, the Recreation and Community Development Division began meeting with Saskatoon Pickleball Inc., a non-profit organization affiliated with both Pickleball Canada and Pickleball Saskatchewan, to discuss the current framework of pickleball within Saskatoon.

The City of Saskatoon (City) converted two of the existing four tennis courts at the Father Basil Markle Park complex (in the Sutherland neighbourhood) into a temporary eight-court pickleball site. The intention with this design at Father Basil Markle Park was to get as many courts as possible in one location in order to have a stand-alone facility for participants to congregate and grow the sport. Based on the group's experiences and feedback, the temporary eight-court structure is too tight, and does not meet pickleball standards for court dimensions and safety zones.

Discussions continued through 2018 with representatives from Saskatoon Pickleball Inc., the Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association, and the Facilities Management Division to develop short-term and long-term plans for outdoor pickleball facilities.

During the 2019 capital budget process, a capital project of \$115,000 was submitted to convert the current tennis court facility at Father Basil Markle Park into a nine-court pickleball-only facility. This project included a funding partner contribution of \$15,000 from the Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association, in conjunction with Saskatoon Pickleball Inc., along with a funding request for \$100,000 through the Recreation, Sport, Culture and Parks Partnership Reserve (Reserve). The funding for this capital project through the Reserve was approved at a lesser value of \$80,000, leaving a \$20,000 shortfall of funds for this project.

## **Report**

### **Outdoor Pickleball Facilities**

The City does not operate a permanent outdoor court that meets the pickleball standards associated with net height, court dimensions, and safety zones. The only courts that have the proper net height are the temporary nets located at Father Basil Markle Park, which are moved on and off the court to allow tennis players to play when not in use. The remaining park locations either have no nets available for use (Forest Park and Umea Park), or use a tennis net (Scott Park and James Girdulis Park). As such, there are limited opportunities for free play in the outdoor environment for pickleball. Tennis will continue to be accommodated at Sidney Buckwold Park (four courts) and Forest Park (three courts) complexes.

The Pickleball Project will convert the current facility (four permanent tennis courts and eight temporary pickleball courts) into a permanent pickleball-only facility, with a nine-court set up that will meet standards for net height, court dimensions, fencing, and safety zones (see Attachment 1). The Pickleball Project consists of subsurface repairs caused from tree root heaving; acrylic surface replacement to provide a smooth surface, including line painting specifically for pickleball only; and net installations. Although root remediation is required, the intent is to not remove trees from the site. The root remediation process will follow City Council Policy No. C09-011, Trees on City Property.

Upon completion of the Pickleball Project, the City will operate its first outdoor pickleball-only complex that will be capable of hosting the general public for recreational and competitive play. Additionally, local organizations will gain opportunities to host tournaments and provincial and national events within this facility.

The total cost of subsurface repairs, nets, posts, and fencing is anticipated to be \$115,000. Funding in the amount of \$15,000 is committed from private contributions (Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association and Saskatoon Pickleball Inc.) and \$80,000 will be funded from the Reserve. The Administration is recommending that the remaining \$20,000 be funded from the Park Enhancement Reserve.

### **Options to the Recommendation**

An option exists for City Council to deny the budget adjustment request to complete conversion of the Pickleball Project. This choice would require that the project scope be reduced. This option is not recommended because the only viable reduction of costs within the project would be the removal of subsurface repairs. Removing this component would not address the heaving of the playing surface and existing damage from tree roots.

### **Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement**

The Administration has consulted with representatives from Saskatoon Pickleball Inc. and the Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association to develop the complex as per standards set by Pickleball Canada with regards to the layout of the nine courts.

### **Communication Plan**

Further development of the Pickleball Project is scheduled to take place in 2019. The Administration will notify immediate neighbours of the park, along with the community association, with the proposed changes and a construction plan as soon as construction timelines are completed.

### **Financial Implications**

Funding for Capital Project No. 2102 was approved in the 2019 capital budget for the amount of \$95,000, with \$80,000 allocated from the Reserve and \$15,000 from private contributions. The \$20,000 of the original budget plan was not able to be funded due to a reduction in the overall funding allocated to the Reserve in the 2019 budget. However, the Park Enhancement Reserve has sufficient funds available to provide the required \$20,000.

### **Safety/Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)**

The Pickleball Project will be presented for CPTED review upon completion of the detailed design phase.

### **Other Considerations/Implications**

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

### **Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion**

The target completion date for the pickleball facility is October 31, 2019.

### **Public Notice**

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

**Attachment**

1. Father Basil Markle Park Pickleball Project (current and proposed layout)

**Report Approval**

Written by: Mark Campbell, Open Space Consultant, Recreation and Community Development

Reviewed by: Andrew Roberts, Acting Director of Recreation and Community Development

Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, Acting General Manager, Community Services Department

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