
TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: SUNNIDALE PARK PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIP WITH BARRIE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

WARD: 4

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RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That the donation from the Barrie Professional Firefighters Association, in the amount of \$100,000, be received by Council and utilized in the following manner:
 - a) That the donation of \$100,000 be used as additional funding to a Capital budget request for Council consideration to have Sunnidale Park playground rebuilt in 2014.
 - b) That staff coordinate with the Barrie Professional Fire Fighters Association on the elements of the playground design to incorporate fire fighting and fire safety awareness.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

2. The purpose of this Staff Report is to update Council on a donation from the Barrie Professional Fire Fighters Association towards the replacement of the Sunnidale Community Park Playground.
3. In late 2012, the Barrie Professional Fire Fighters Association (BPFFA) approached City staff expressing an interest in donating funds towards a destination project within a municipal park that would showcase the efforts of the Association to give back to the community based on their various fundraising campaigns. Throughout discussions with the BPFFA members and City staff, it became apparent that a large community park playground reconstruction would best suit the requirements of the BPFFA campaign.
4. The BPFFA's mandate includes raising funds in support of Community projects. Refer to Appendix "A" for details.
5. The design for the Sunnidale Community Park playground is included in the 2013 Business Plan under the Playground Replacement Program in the amount of \$25,000.

ANALYSIS

6. The expected life for all playground equipment within the City of Barrie is projected at a minimum of 20 years. Fifteen years from original installation, all playgrounds are placed under a "5-year watch list" so as to monitor their condition before consideration of full capital replacement. This allows staff from Parks Planning and Parks Operations time to review and assess the structures condition based on compliance with the Canadian Standards Association requirements. An annual audit is performed on playground equipment between 15 to 20 years into the lifespan of the equipment to rank the replacement of equipment for consideration within future Business Plans.
7. Being a community park location, Sunnidale Park is a great choice for a partnership with the BPFPA as the site is already a destination park and a gathering place for families, the local neighbourhood, various community groups and a space used by local school and charities for activities and events. The majority of equipment at the existing playground is currently 17 years old so it is approaching the end of its life cycle.
8. The Sunnidale Park Master Plan notes the playground reconstruction is to be relocated near the Dorian Parker Centre in order to create a "family area" for future gatherings, events and activities. Refer to the enlarged partial copy of the Master Plan drawing in Appendix "B" for details.
9. The proposed location within the park will prevent the requirement to decommission and remove the existing playground facility before reconstructing the new equipment. This will allow for continual public play activity. Once the new facility is completed, the existing playground structure and components would be removed and the area restored. Part of this restoration would be the removal of walkway link leading from Sunnidale Road to the structure as this would no longer be required.
10. Staff recommend that the City's portion of the reconstruction budget for Sunnidale Community Park playground, being \$150,000 be maintained so that the overall 2014 proposed budget will be \$250,000 (\$150,000 + \$100,000 BPFPA funding). The partnership with the BPFPA would provide an opportunity to create a unique play experience that goes beyond the standard level of service for City playgrounds.
11. Partnerships such as the one being proposed in this Staff Report can allow greater opportunities for the development of parks in the future.
12. The Sunnidale Park playground is being redesigned in 2013 in advance of the Capital budget request for construction in 2014. With the donation from the BPFPA, the playground's redesign is proposed to include enhanced components that otherwise would not be possible. These proposed enhancements would be incorporated through the detailed design process as the total budget allows including, but not limited to, the following elements:
 - a) Creating a fire fighting and fire safety awareness theme to educate the public through the play exploration;
 - b) Increase the number of playground components to make the playground area larger to create the playground as a destination location;
 - c) Increase the level of universal accessibility into the design of the playground, beyond the minimum requirements that the City would otherwise implement to be in accordance with the newly legislated Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements;
 - d) Upgrade the existing sand surfacing standard to wood fibre wheel chair accessibility standard;
 - e) Expand the design towards family integration into the playground area (children, youth, adults and seniors).

13. Municipalities in Ontario are now governed by three pieces of complementary legislation: the Ontario Human Rights Code, the AODA, and the Ontario Building Code (OBC). The AODA replaces the previous Ontarians with Disabilities Act and is expected to achieve full accessibility of Ontario's goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures and premises by January 1, 2025. The City's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) advises Council on the accessibility of City of Barrie goods, services, facilities, and recreational spaces and typically reviews all project development site plans. The redesigned Sunnidale Park playground will accommodate the new Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 accessibility requirements in its design including, but not limited to, accessible surface, pathway access from the adjacent parking lot and accessible swing seats.
14. General Committee has endorsed Motion 13-G-134 for Community Park Outdoor Play Space Design Standards, in response to new AODA accessibility requirements. The Motion states:

"COMMUNITY PARK OUTDOOR PLAY SPACES DESIGN STANDARDS

1. That all new and redeveloped Community Park outdoor play spaces be designed and constructed in compliance with The Canadian Standards Association CAN/CSA – Z614-07, Annex H.
2. That the following standards be included within the new Design Guidelines for Community Park Outdoor Play Spaces:
 - a. Physical barriers which prevent disabled children or caregivers from accessing the play space be removed;
 - b. Pathways provide a connecting link between designated accessible parking spaces and the accessible outdoor play space;
 - c. The selection of accessible safety surfacing options be guided by the individual site characteristics, as well as cost benefits; and
 - d. Consideration be given to various types of disability – sensory as well as physical impairments, so as to create a more inclusive play space."

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

15. There are no environmental matters associated with this Staff Report.

ALTERNATIVES

There is one Alternative available for consideration by General Committee

Alternative #1

General Committee could choose to not accept the BPFPA donation towards the redevelopment of the Sunnidale Park playground.

This Alternative is not recommended as the potential to add this donation to the proposed City Capital funding will provide the opportunity for an enhanced destination playground for the public to enjoy. This would be a missed opportunity for the City to partner with other organizations on Capital projects and leverage funds to reduce Capital costs for infrastructure.

FINANCIAL

15. Staff are proposing the construction of this major community park playground reconstruction with a cost of \$150,000 be considered in 2014 Business Plan. This donation would increase the project value to approximately \$250,000.
16. The BPFFA donation would provide the opportunity to enhance the Capital funding for the park's playground reconstruction while promoting the Association through the betterment of the Community as per the Association's mandate. It would also allow for playground elements beyond the minimum requirements associated with AODA legislation.
17. This project is already in the 2013 Work Plan for design and the additional funds would not impact the resources required for the project. There is little impact in the design phase as the additional funds essentially allow for more elaborate playground equipment with greater play value than would otherwise be possible within generally the same area. Operational staff have indicated that, as a destination site, the maintenance time and operational costs required to inspect, service and/or repair new equipment, including undertaking the annual safety audit review, will not exceed current maintenance levels of service for the existing wood structure. Modern playground equipment is designed to require less maintenance through the use of more durable materials such as plastic and steel than compared to older playground equipment that is composed primarily of wood.

LINKAGE TO 2010 – 2014 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

19. The recommendations included in this Staff Report supports the following goal identified in the 2010-2014 City Council Strategic Plan:

 Improve and expand Community Involvement and City interactions
20. Developing and replacing City assets in partnership and sponsorship with various Groups, Agencies, Service Clubs and business helps to generate local interest and provide opportunities for community enhancement and exposure on projects.

Appendix "A"

BARRIE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY PROJECTS MANDATE

The mission statement for this committee is to promote/present our Association as a caring, positive entity in our community and surrounding area.

To achieve this we have developed the following mandate:

To promote the Association through the betterment of the Community.

1. Raise funds in support of Community Projects to be disbursed only after careful investigation.
2. To financially or physically support worthwhile charities and service groups who are in need of assistance through the normal course of their annual or special fundraising events.
3. To financially support those individuals or families who are in need of assistance through some tragedy that has affected their lives or livelihood.
4. To financially or physically support individuals or groups who by virtue of their special interests or unique talents represent or promote the City of Barrie or surrounding area.
5. Disperse funds primarily within, but not limited to, the City of Barrie.
6. Present plaques and/or certificates to those businesses and individuals who assist us in our efforts.
7. To be fiscally responsible, to our membership, for monies raised, donated and dispersed to the Community Projects Committee.
8. To work closely with other Association Committees to achieve recognition through local media and local government for our contribution in the community.

Appendix "B" - Enlarged Partial Detail of the Dorian Parker Centre and new Playground Location

