

DATE OF MEETING November 13, 2019

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**SUBJECT NANAIMO BMX TRACK REDEVELOPMENT DESIGN**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide more background information for a proposed BMX track redevelopment at the Marie Davidson BMX Park located at Beban Park and obtain Council approval to proceed with detailed design in collaboration with Nanaimo BMX Association and other community stakeholders.

### **Recommendation**

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:

1. consider funding of \$35,000, during the 2020 - 2024 Financial Plan review, for detailed design and cost estimates for the Nanaimo BMX track redevelopment; and,
2. direct staff to work with Nanaimo BMX Association and other stakeholders on the development of detailed design and costing for the project.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 1989, the Kinsmen requested permission to convert some of the grounds into a BMX track within Beban Park. Permission was granted and the track opened in 1991 on the former logger sports area, which today is known as the Marie Davidson BMX Park. Since 1991, the Nanaimo BMX Association, a non-profit society, has held a license of use agreement with the City of Nanaimo and continues to operate and maintain the track and surrounding site. The track is well-utilized and open to the public year round except during club practices and race days. The club operates under the umbrella of the BMX Canada sanctioning body and current membership is approximately 350 riders who live in the mid-island area.

The Nanaimo BMX Association executive committee has always highlighted safety as their top priority for all users of the facility. Many of the components within the track are original and require replacement or remediation to ensure safe operation and function. The association has been working hard to identify these issues and determining a course of action to continue to provide safe, competitive and fun BMX riding for their club and the broader community.

Earlier this year, the Nanaimo BMX Association met with Parks and Recreation staff to advise of the need for updating and redevelopment of the Marie Davidson BMX Park. Since that time, the Association has acquired the services of an international consulting firm that specializes in action sport facilities. The consultant and the Nanaimo BMX Association have developed a conceptual design that will meet the current and future needs of the club and Nanaimo citizens.

The Nanaimo BMX Association is now at a point to further develop the conceptual plan into a detailed final project with the assistance of City of Nanaimo in order to progress from conceptual design through to final detailed design. At the Committee of the Whole meeting held on 2019-OCT-28, Nanaimo BMX presented to council to introduce the club and the vision of this potential infrastructure upgrade project. Following the presentation, Council passed the following motion:

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council refer the request from the Nanaimo BMX Association for \$35,000 for infrastructure upgrades to the Marie Davidson BMX Park to Staff to prepare a report for Council consideration as Council enters budget deliberations for this year.”

## **DISCUSSION**

The Nanaimo BMX Association has launched a fundraising campaign called “Get Behind The Gate” which has raised over \$70,000 to replace the existing start gate structure. The gate is the original start component and needs replacement to address safety concerns. Additional areas of concern at the facility include:

- Aging/deteriorating asphalt corners
- Start hill structure
- Track lighting

The association has also invested \$3,000 to develop the schematic and conceptual design for a track redevelopment, which was presented at the 2019-OCT-28 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The Nanaimo BMX Association has requested that the City consider providing \$35,000 towards continuing detailed design work already under way with the design consultant and additionally, the continued support from Staff to coordinate and manage design through to completion.

Staff recommend proceeding with the detailed design of a track redevelopment project for the Marie Davidson BMX Park in collaboration with the Nanaimo BMX Association and other community stakeholders. The goal would be to complete a comprehensive detailed design of a new BMX track facility with detailed cost estimates in early 2020. After detailed design completion, fundraising and the ability to source out other opportunities of revenue for the project would be possible due to the level of detail that will be available from this portion of the project as a whole being complete.

## **OPTIONS**

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:
  1. consider funding of \$35,000, during the 2020 - 2024 Financial Plan review, for detailed design and cost estimates for the Nanaimo BMX track redevelopment; and,
  2. direct staff to work with Nanaimo BMX Association and other stakeholders on the development of detailed design and costing for the project.
  - The advantages of this option: The Nanaimo BMX Association can continue to do immediate safety repairs with limited available funds. A completed, detailed design will allow the association and the City to fully understand the scope and cost of a redevelopment project. The process is supported by the Beban Park Master Plan Update 2015, which promotes the continued development and improvement of Beban Park and the fostering of community partnerships.
  - The disadvantages of this option: The actual amount of fundraising for the future project may not reach anticipated or estimated levels.
  - Financial Implications: \$35,000 would be required and a 2020 design project would be added to the 2020-2024 project plan. The cost estimate for the entire project has not been developed at this time.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council keep the existing facilities at the Marie Davidson BMX Park as is.
  - The advantages of this option: Capital expenditure for design is delayed until a future date.
  - The disadvantages of this option: The existing infrastructure will continue to degrade and maintenance costs to the club will rise beyond maintainable levels. The track and related amenities would still need to be replaced at a future date. An opportunity to work together with community groups to replace this aging facility with an updated, modern, safer track will be lost.
  - Financial implications: None identified at this time.
3. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council provide alternate direction to Staff. |

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- A detailed design and cost estimating exercise is being proposed for the Marie Davidson BMX Park.
- A completed, detailed design will allow the association and the City to fully understand the scope and cost of a redevelopment project.
- The Nanaimo BMX Association can continue to do immediate safety repairs with limited available funds.

- The association has been working to identify these issues and determining a course of action to continue to provide safe, competitive and fun BMX riding for their club and the broader community.
- The Beban Park Master Plan Update 2015 promotes the continued development and improvement of Beban Park and the fostering of community partnerships.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT A: Nanaimo BMX presentation from 2019-OCT-28 Committee of the Whole Meeting

ATTACHMENT B: Nanaimo BMX Sponsorship Package 2019 Season. |

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