

DATE OF MEETING February 19, 2020

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**SUBJECT ROTARY CENTENNIAL GARDEN PROJECT UPDATE**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To provide an update to Council regarding the Rotary Centennial Garden Project proposed at Maffeo Sutton Park and to obtain direction from Council to fund a shortfall for the overall cost of the project.

### **Recommendation:**

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve adding \$186,120 to the 2020 budget for the Rotary Centennial Garden Project at Maffeo Sutton Park to be funded by the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2016, the Rotary Club of Nanaimo (Rotary Club) initiated conversation with City staff about the idea of creating a community project in Maffeo Sutton Park to be implemented in commemoration and celebration of Rotary's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020.

At the Committee of the Whole Meeting held 2017-NOV-27, Council approved the following motion:

*"That Council direct Staff to work with the Nanaimo Child Development Centre, Rotary Club of Nanaimo, and partners, to develop a plan for the Maffeo Sutton Park playground that is all-inclusive."*

Collaboration, planning and development of that plan has continued and evolved since that time. A report was provided to Council at the Committee of the Whole Meeting held 2019-MAR-25 to present the Rotary Centennial Garden project proposal for Council's consideration and support (see Attachment A). Council endorsed the following motion:

*"That the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council:*

- 1. approve the Rotary Centennial Garden for Maffeo Sutton Park as presented and that the garden be funded by the Rotarians;*
- 2. amend the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan to add the Centennial Garden project to 2019 for the \$200,000, fully funded by private contribution; and,*
- 3. direct Staff to project manage the construction of Centennial Garden in coordination with the Rotarians for opening by 2020-MAY-01.*

Planning has continued in response to this direction from Council. The northeast section of Maffeo Sutton Park would now see substantial upgrades to the existing playground area and the inclusion of a public garden space. The Rotary Club has provided a cheque to the City of Nanaimo for \$134,230. An additional \$65,770 has been spent on the construct of the steel pergola structures within the design (\$50,000) and engineering/architectural services (\$15,770) to support the design of the project.

Staff have been tasked with the management of this project on behalf of the Rotary Club. The Rotary Centennial Garden project has been brought to an open public tender process requesting contractors to fulfill the vision and scope of the Rotary Club. Six bids were received by the tender closing date of 2019-DEC-23. The lowest acceptable bid was for \$287,000 (excluding value added taxes).

Following the tender closing, Staff began discussions with representatives from the Rotary Club to determine the ability to increase its private contribution to enable the project to proceed. The Rotary Club has confirmed that no more funds are available at this time. The Rotary Club currently intends to work with the City on adding interactive lighting within the Rotary Garden Project within their new fiscal year (June 2020); however, the Rotary Club does not intend on providing any funding above their initial \$200,000 commitment for the construction of the Rotary Centennial Garden

Review of the project has taken place to examine the possibility of removing some elements from the project in order to complete a project within the existing available funding. A redesign and retender would need to occur, which would result in the project not being completed as part of the Rotary Club's 100th anniversary celebrations as originally intended. As well, the park would experience increased disruption if the project was realised at a later date.

## **DISCUSSION**

The following information is key to consider when deciding how to move forward with the Rotary Centennial Garden project:

- The Rotary Club of Nanaimo has committed \$200,000 towards the construction of the Rotary Centennial Garden Project. The scope and intent of the design has not been changed since last presented to Council.
- To date, the Rotary Club spent \$65,770 for engineering and architectural services as well as the manufacturing of the steel pergola structures within the design.
- The Rotary Club has provided the City with a cheque for \$134,230 in payment of the remaining amount within the Rotary Club's total contribution.
- A compliant bid was received during the tender process to complete the scope of the project for \$287,000.
- A shortfall of \$152,770 exists between the available funds and proposed bid.
- An additional 5% increase on the low bid amount of \$14,350 is recommended to compensate the bidder due to delays in award. The bidder has agreed to extend their bid validity an additional 30 days.
- An additional \$19,000 would be required for on-site testing, technical reviews and project contingency.

- Total additional funds of \$186,120 would be required to proceed with the current project scope.
- This project is planned to occur at the same time as the 2020 phase one improvements of the playground at Maffeo Sutton Park to minimize disruption to park users. |

## OPTIONS

1. | That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve adding \$186,120 to the 2020 budget for the Rotary Centennial Garden Project at Maffeo Sutton Park to be funded by the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve.
  - The advantages of this option: The project is supported and consistent with the Maffeo Sutton Park Master Plan Update. Continued support for community partners such as the Rotary Club of Nanaimo are supported in numerous policy documents. The City of Nanaimo would be gaining a substantial infrastructure upgrade to our premier waterfront park.
  - The disadvantages of this option: City funds will now be required to proceed with the project where previously it was expected that the Rotary Club would fund the project entirely.
  - Financial Implications: The 2020-2024 Provisional Financial Plan would be amended to increase the project budget. The Rotary Club will still be contributing \$200,000 of donated funds to construct the Rotary Centennial Garden project.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve adding \$186,120 to the 2020 budget for the Rotary Centennial Garden Project at Maffeo Sutton Park to be funded by General Revenue.
  - The advantages of this option: The project is supported and consistent with the Maffeo Sutton Park Master Plan Update. Continued support for community partners such as the Rotary Club of Nanaimo are supported in numerous policy documents. The City of Nanaimo would be gaining a substantial infrastructure upgrade to our premier waterfront park.
  - The disadvantages of this option: City funds will now be required to proceed with the project where previously it was expected that the Rotary Club would fund the project entirely.
  - Financial Implications: The 2020-2024 Provisional Financial Plan would be amended to increase the project budget to be funded from General Revenue, which would result in a potential tax increase. The Rotary Club will still be contributing \$200,000 of donated funds to construct the Rotary Centennial Garden project.
3. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to cancel the tender and defer the Rotary Centennial Garden project.
  - The advantages of this option: By deferring the project, City funds would not be needed at this time and may not be required in the future if further funding can be identified by the Rotary Club of Nanaimo.
  - The disadvantages of this option: The Rotary Club may choose to retract their private contribution for this project and not proceed with Maffeo Sutton Park for the location of the Rotary Centennial Garden design. The desired completion timeframe

of 2020 in celebration of the Rotary Club of Nanaimo's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary may not be achieved. Future partnership opportunities with the Rotary Club might be negatively affected.

- Financial Implications: No changes to the City's budget would be required at this time or possibly ever. An opportunity to utilize \$200,000 of private contributions from a valued community organization would be jeopardized.

4. That the Finance and Audit Committee provide alternative direction. |

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Collaboration and planning for the Rotary Centennial Garden has been happening since 2016.
- The Rotary Club of Nanaimo has committed \$200,000 toward the construction of the Rotary Centennial Garden.
- The northeast section of Maffeo Sutton Park would now see substantial upgrades to the existing playground area and the inclusion of a public garden space.
- The Rotary Centennial Garden project has been brought to an open public tender process requesting contractors to fulfill the vision and scope of the Rotary Club.
- A total of \$186,120 would be required to proceed with the current project scope.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: Staff report titled "Rotary Centennial Garden Proposal for Maffeo Sutton Park" dated 2019-MAR-25.

Attachment B: Pergola Structure – L3.05 Landscape Details

### **Submitted by:**

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### **Concurrence by:**

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