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SUBJECT INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with information on three potential projects for the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and obtain a Council resolution.

Recommendation

That Council select a project to endorse for application under the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

BACKGROUND

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program is a program aimed at creating long-term economic growth, building inclusive and sustainable communities, and supports a low carbon green economy. This is the second intake for the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream that helps communities address their infrastructure needs while improving access to and quality of cultural, recreational and community spaces. The program is available to local governments, Indigenous applicants, and not-for-profit organizations.

The program targets projects that can be completed within five years following approval. A cost share between the federal and provincial government provides funding and their combined maximum contribution is 73.33%. Stacking rules apply to this funding. Therefore 73.33% is the maximum that could be funded from senior government sources including the Gas Tax Community Works Funds received by the City annually.

The grant application deadline is **2020-OCT-01**.

On 2020-AUG -07 the Government of Canada announced an adaptation of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to respond to the impacts of COVID-19. A new, temporary COVID-19 Resilience Stream, with over \$3 billion available in existing funding, has been created to provide provinces and territories with added flexibility to fund quick-start, short-term projects that might not be otherwise be eligible under the existing funding streams.

The COVID-19 Resilience Stream of funding is still under development by the Ministry, and further details are not available at this time. Staff have met, and short-listed potential projects that may qualify for this funding. Once the funding stream details have been released, staff will return to Council to present project options and receive Council direction for this funding stream. |

DISCUSSION

Staff have short listed three projects for consideration under the current funding stream.

1. Artificial Turf Field Harewood Centennial Park

The proposed synthetic turf facility for Sherry Field at Harewood Centennial Park, will complement the other facilities at this site and create increased recreational opportunities for this area of the City for families, youth and adult sports, and for high school sports. It is intended to be a high utility, high use playing field facility allowing for the maximum number of hours of use possible. The facility would consist of two synthetic turf fields and will be able to accommodate a variety of sports including soccer, softball, football and lacrosse. Additional amenities would include:

- Field lights
- Covered players and officials benches
- Areas for spectator seating
- Secure off field storage area
- Perimeter walkway

2. Loudon Boathouse

In 2007, Council adopted an initial Loudon Park Improvement Plan, and an updated version of the plan was approved in 2010. The plan identified that the existing, 50-year old washroom/change room facility on-site did not meet the needs of the paddling organizations or the community overall. The plan recommended that a new paddling facility be developed to provide an updated and accessible year-round public washroom and change room, as well as storage, dry floor and program space for two active providers of recreational opportunities in the community. During budget deliberations for the 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan Council allocated \$123,750 in 2020 to complete detailed design and costing for the Loudon Boathouse.

The proposed new facility would be a multi-use boathouse and community meeting space for the Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club, the Nanaimo Rowing Club and the City, consisting of the following:

- Approximately 5,500 square feet in area
- Two offices
- Women's and men's public washrooms including a universal toilet room
- Secure boat storage
- Multi-purpose space including small kitchen and folding partition
- Private washroom and double shower room

- Mechanical and electrical rooms

The Loudon Boathouse project presents an opportunity for the City to collaborate with the Long Lake Flatwater Training Society and Rotary Club of Nanaimo North to achieve the new public facility. Both organizations have committed to raising funds for the project and contributed \$15,000 towards the detailed design project. A co-management agreement would be established for its shared operation.

3. Maffeo-Sutton Playground Phase 2

Maffeo-Sutton Park is Nanaimo's premier waterfront park space. In 2017, Council passed a motion for City staff to work with the Nanaimo Child Development Centre, Rotary Club of Nanaimo, and other community partners, to develop a plan for Maffeo- Sutton Park playground as the majority of the playground and surfacing had reached end of life and did not meet safety standards. The motion was to design this park to be all-inclusive and appeal to people of all ages and abilities.

A three phase plan was created to redevelop the space with traditional play elements, significant seating areas, planting, public art, public circulation routes, and interpretive materials with a theme to reflect the traditional First Nations territory. Phase 1 of the plan, which focused on inclusive play for 5 – 12 year olds, was completed in June 2020. As well, Rotary Centennial Garden with paving, plants, pagodas and logs is being installed on nearby green space. Phase II focuses on inclusive play features for 2 - 5 year olds, upgraded safety surfacing and additional landscaping.

OPTIONS

1. That Council direct staff to submit an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture and Recreation Stream for the Artificial Turf Field Harewood Centennial Park project and that Council commits to funding \$1.19 million of the project.

- The advantages of this option: The project would increase the City's inventory of all weather fields which are in high demand and provide for the needs of the community and adjacent school.
- The disadvantages of this option: This project is not currently in the 2020-2024 Financial Plan.
- Financial Implications: The cost of the project has been estimated at \$4.47 million. If the grant application is successful the City would be eligible for up to \$3.28 million of funding towards the project with the remaining \$1.19 million to be funded by the City. If selected the project will be added to 2022 in the 2021-2025 Financial Plan with the City's portion funded from Council's Strategic Infrastructure Reserve. The project would be contingent on a successful grant application.

2. That Council direct staff to submit an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture and Recreation Stream for the Loudon Boathouse project and that Council commits to funding \$0.5 million of the project.

- The advantages of this option: An aging City amenity will be replaced with a modern facility that meets a variety of community needs. The project offers the City the opportunity to partner with two community groups who have committed to raising funds towards the project. The new boathouse will improve security, safety, accessibility and enable local paddling clubs to offer enhanced, year-round programming for all ages and abilities. The proposed facility meets the goals of the Loudon Park Improvement Plan.
- The disadvantages of this option: This project is not currently in the 2020-2024 Financial Plan.
- Financial Implications: The cost for the construction phase of the project has been estimated at \$1.87 million. If the grant application is successful, the City would be eligible for up to \$1.37 million of funding with the remaining \$0.5 million to be funded by the City. Any fundraising done by the community partners would offset the City's contribution. If selected the project will be added to 2022 and 2023 in the 2021-2025 Financial Plan with the City's portion funded from Council's Strategic Infrastructure Reserve. The project would be contingent on a successful grant application.

3. That Council direct staff to submit an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture and Recreation Stream for the Maffeo-Sutton Playground Phase 2 project and that Council commits to funding \$176,902 of the project.

- The advantages of this option: This will further the goal of making the park all-inclusive and appealing to people of all ages and abilities.
- Financial Implications: The cost for Phase 2 has been estimated at \$663,300. If the grant application is successful, the City would be eligible for up to \$486,398 of funding towards the project, with the remaining \$176,902 to be funded by the City. Currently, the City has budgeted \$663,300 in 2023 of the 2020-2024 Financial Plan. If selected, the project would be accelerated to 2022 in the 2021-2025 Financial Plan with the City's portion funded from Council's Strategic Infrastructure Reserve. Acceleration of the project would be contingent on a successful grant application.

4. That Council provide alternative direction to staff for a project to submit an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture and Recreation Stream. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Community, Culture, and Recreation Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program provides up to 73.33% funding for eligible project costs
- The City may submit one application
- Applications are due by 2020-OCT-01

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Investing in Canada Infrastructure Intake 2 PowerPoint Presentation |

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