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AUTHORED BY MICHELLE MILLER, SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST
ART GROOT, DIRECTOR, FACILITY AND PARKS OPERATIONS

SUBJECT COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with information on five potential projects for the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program and obtain a Council resolution.

Recommendation

That Council select two projects to endorse for application under the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program.

BACKGROUND

The Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) was developed to help communities in British Columbia recover from the economic impacts experienced from COVID-19. The program is available to local governments, Indigenous applicants, and not-for-profit organizations.

This is a \$100 million program which offers 100% funding up to \$1 million for projects that support four key streams:

- Community Economic Resilience (\$30 million)
- Destination Development (\$20 million)
- Unique Heritage Infrastructure (\$20 million)
- Rural Economic Recovery (\$20 million)

The main goal for this program is to create new employment or to re-employ laid off workers in applicant communities.

Project costs over \$1 million must be financed by the applicant. Stacking rules do not apply to this grant therefore other senior government sources such as the Gas Tax Community Works Fund may be used. Eligible applicants can submit two applications and projects must be completed by 2023-MAR-31.

The grant application deadline is **2020-OCT-29**.

This grant is separate from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program announced by the Government of Canada to respond to the impacts of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Resilience

Stream is on hold as interregnum is in place until after the Provincial election. Staff will return to Council to present project options and receive Council direction for this funding stream once the details are released. |

DISCUSSION

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

1. Loudon Boathouse

In 2007, Council adopted a Loudon Park Improvement Plan, which was updated and approved in 2010. The plan identified that the existing, 50-year old washroom/change room facility did not meet the needs of the paddling organizations, or the community overall. It was recommended that a new paddling facility be developed to provide an updated and accessible year-round public washroom and change room, as well as provide storage, dry floor and program space. In 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.

2. Beban Complex Electrical Upgrades

The existing main electrical substation serving Beban Park Recreation Centre is nearing end of life and needs to be replaced with new energy efficient technology. The existing substation to Frank Crane Arena, Beban Park Pool, and the Beban Social Centre, in the event of a power failure, can supply emergency lighting but can not provide cooling, ventilation, mechanical, and heating systems.

Beban Park is a designated reception centre for the City which are facilities intended to provide temporary support for residents who are displaced in emergencies while acting as a point of information for residents. Other designated reception centres include, Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, Oliver Woods and Bowen Park. Currently, all of the facilities only have generators that provide emergency lighting.

The City is taking this opportunity to prepare Beban Park for future emergency generators. The proposed replacement will be wired to allow for generators with the capacity for complete back-up power and meet the needs of a post-disaster facility. Existing generators will be replaced, but will still only have the capacity to supply emergency lighting. A 400KW generator will be available in 2023 to be repurposed from the Water Treatment Plant which would fully power Beban Park Social Centre but not the Frank Crane Arena or the Pool.

3. Rotary Bowl Oval and Sprint Track Replacement

The Rotary Bowl facility was acquired by the City in 2018 from Nanaimo/Ladysmith School District 68. The track was installed in 2010 and it is assumed that little to no maintenance has been performed since. In addition to the damage from wear, there have also been issues with tree roots from Lombardi Poplars adjacent to the track surface.

The proposed project consists of replacing the existing track surface including:

- 8 lanes x 400m running track
- 8 lane sprint runway
- 2 lane long/triple jump runway
- Pole vault runway and
- High jump oval area

The new track surface system will consist of a full pour polyurethane system to provide a durable, safe, and quality track surface. The intention is to maintain the asphalt base layer under the track surface, however, the condition of existing asphalt is unknown and may require further remediation at time of replacement.

4. 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.

5. Maffeo Sutton Washrooms

Two small washroom buildings that would service Maffeo Sutton Park. |

Many years ago an Amenity Building at Maffeo Sutton Park was identified in the concept plan during the Maffeo Sutton Park Master Plan process. In 2011, an architect was engaged to provide site design options and high level cost estimates. The initial scope of this project included:

- Concession
- Festival sized washrooms
- Basic washrooms
- Event storage
- Covered exterior seating

At that time this project was costed at approximately \$1.89 million. Since then, this location has been serviced for an upgraded facility, but no funds have been allocated to construction. This grant program sparked discussion to take this opportunity to see this project come to fruition. As this project is not currently in the plan, it would need to be scaled back to \$1 million which would see some features initially envisioned removed.

OPTIONS

1. That Council direct Staff to submit an application to the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program for the Loudon Boathouse project and that Council commits to funding \$0.87 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. With maximum grant funding of \$1 million available, the remaining \$0.87 million will 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 2021 and 2022 in the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan with the City's portion funded from Gas Tax Community Works Funding. The project would be contingent on a successful grant application.
2. That Council direct Staff to submit an application to the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program for the Beban Complex Electrical Upgrades Project and that Council commits to funding \$716,425 of the project.
 - The advantages of this option: This project will help Nanaimo to become a more resilient community in regards to emergency management. The City is required under the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation to coordinate the provision of food, clothing, shelter transportation and medical services to victims of emergencies and disasters. The central location of Beban Park will make it one

of the busiest reception centres for residents in emergencies, therefore it is a good investment to upgrade this reception centre to meet our emergency management responsibilities.

- Financial Implications: This project is currently in 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan with design of \$98,925 in 2020 and construction of \$1,617,500 in 2021. With maximum grant funding of \$1 million available, the remaining \$716,425 will be funded by the City. The project is fully funded in the plan therefore, the \$1 million in savings from the project can be re-allocated to other priorities.
3. That Council direct Staff to submit an application to the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program for the Rotary Bowl Track Replacement and that Council commits to funding \$188,150 of the project.
- The advantages of this option: This project will remove safety hazards associated with the current condition of the track which is heavily used by Nanaimo/Ladysmith School District 68. The grant will allow both phases of the project to be completed in 2021.
 - Financial Implications: This project is currently in the 2021 – 2025 Draft Financial Plan with \$211,750 in 2021 for the sprint track replacement and \$988,150 in 2024 for the oval track replacement. With maximum grant funding of \$1 million available, the remaining \$200,000 will be funded from the City. The Nanaimo Track & Field Club has committed to contributing \$50,000 towards the track resurfacing project which would offset the City's contribution. If selected the oval track replacement will be accelerated to 2021. Acceleration of phase 2 would be contingent on a successful grant application.
4. That Council direct Staff to submit an application to the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program for the Maffeo Sutton Playground Phase 2 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. Also, this grant would fully fund this project allowing the funds currently in the plan to be reallocated to other priorities.
 - Financial Implications: The cost for Phase 2 has been estimated at \$663,300. If the application is successful, we would received the full project cost in grant funding. Currently, the City has budgeted \$663,300 in 2023 of the 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan. If selected, the project would be accelerated to 2021 in the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan. Acceleration of the project would be contingent on a successful grant application.
5. That Council direct Staff to submit an application to the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program for the Maffeo Sutton Washrooms project.
- The advantages of this option: This will allow a project that has been on hold for many years be completed. It also moves towards improving Nanaimo's premier waterfront park space and is congruent with the efforts made to improve this park thus far.
 - Financial Implications: This project would be scaled back to \$1 million, and if the application is successful we would receive the full project cost in grant funding. This project is not currently in the 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan and if selected the

project would be added to 2021 in the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan. This project would be contingent on a successful grant application.

6. That Council provide alternative direction to Staff for a project to submit an application to the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program provides 100% funding up to \$1 million for eligible project costs.
- The City may submit two applications.
- Applications are due by 2020-OCT-29.

ATTACHMENTS:

Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program PowerPoint Presentation |

Submitted by:

Michelle Miller
Senior Financial Analyst

Art Groot
Director, Facility and Parks Operations

Concurrence by:

Laura Mercer
Manager, Business, Asset and Financial
Planning

Richard Harding
General Manager, Parks, Recreation and
Culture

Shelley Legin
General Manager, Corporate Services |