

DATE OF MEETING | DECEMBER 15, 2021 |

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SUBJECT BRECHIN BOAT RAMP – DOCK REPLACEMENT

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide an update to Council regarding the replacement of a portion of the dock at the Brechin Boat Ramp. |

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council add to 2021 of the 2021-2025 Financial Plan a project for the dock replacement at the Brechin Boat Ramp with funding from the Brechin Boat Ramp Reserve and private contributions.

BACKGROUND

The Brechin Boat Ramp is a public boat ramp located off Stewart Avenue that is utilized year-round by many different users, including recreational boaters, fishermen, charter boats, marine rescue, Coast Guard, as well as kayakers and Stand-Up Paddle boarders.

Improvements to the facility have been made over recent years, including substantial updates to traffic flow and parking in 2014. In 2017, docks utilized to host the Rogers Hometown Hockey event were used to replace the unloading and loading dock fingers that form the main part of the ramp and add additional capacity to the dock. The new fingers installed were synthetic and made of a composite decking that provides a durable, low-maintenance, anti-slip surface.

The dock known as the Rowing/Paddling dock is home to Nanaimo Ocean Paddle Club (NOPC) which has 126 members utilizing the facility 34 times per week. A number of ancillary groups train using the NOPC boats including Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club, Vancouver Island University, and the Halat, Lyackson and Snuneymuxw First Nations.

NOPC has the largest membership in the Canadian Outrigger Racing Association in Canada. |

DISCUSSION

NOPC has outgrown the current 3,000 square foot dock in terms of both storage and user group capacity. Currently the club stores:

- 3 six-person outrigger canoes

- 2 four-person outrigger canoes
- 3 two-person outrigger canoes
- 4 one-person outrigger canoes
- 2 twenty-two person dragon boats
- 3 paddle boards

There have been numerous repairs done to this section of the dock over the last five years extending the operational expectancy of the dock until the funds could be put in place to replace the aging structure. At this point, the dock needs complete replacement due to the level of deterioration caused by age and its location in a marine environment.

NOPC has successfully gathered \$50,000 to contribute to the project and have requested that the City of Nanaimo cover the remaining costs and commit staff time to replacing the dock.

The new dock system is compatible with the previously installed fingers and will increase the current square footage by 1,000 square feet. A new chain-link storage facility will be constructed replacing the wooden structure which has seen vandalism and break-ins. Further expansion can occur as funds become available.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

In October 2021, a supplier provided a cost estimate of \$138,260 for the replacement dock pieces. This estimate would utilize the current fingers purchased in 2017, and add an additional six sections to the dock in the same composite material as the previous replacements. The storage facility is estimated at an additional \$5,000.

The Brechin Boat Ramp Reserve currently has a projected 2021 closing balance of \$123,472. NOPC will be contributing \$50,000 leaving an estimated \$30,000 in the reserve for future projects.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council add to 2021 of the 2021-2025 Financial Plan a project for the dock replacement at the Brechin Boat Ramp with funding from the Brechin Boat Ramp Reserve and private contributions.
 - The advantages of this option: Replacing the dock will allow for increased usage, improved functionality and improved safety. Supporting a relationship with a leading community based sporting group.
 - The disadvantages of this option: There will be fewer funds available for future projects funded by the Brechin Boat Ramp Reserve.
 - Financial Implications: Project funding impacts the Brechin Boat Ramp Reserve. There are no implications to taxation. The 2021-2025 Financial Plan will be amended to include this project.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council provide alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The dock known as the rowing/paddling dock at Brechin Boat Ramp is in need of replacement due to deterioration and no longer has adequate capacity for the user groups that utilize this space.
- Funds for this project are available in the Brechin Boat Ramp Reserve meaning that there are no implications to taxation.
- This will be a partnership project with the Nanaimo Ocean Paddle Club contributing \$50,000.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Visuals of existing dock, proposed design and example of the composite dock |

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