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Item 13.1.4

**Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council
June 7, 2018**

TO: Chair and Members of Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Brad Anguish, Director, Parks & Recreation

Original Signed

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 28, 2018

SUBJECT: Regional Splash Pad Recreation Area for Dartmouth

ORIGIN

April 5, 2018 Motion of Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council refer the presentation from Dartmouth Splash Pad and Park for a staff report and return to Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council by June 30, 2018. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter, sections 79(1) The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for:

(k)recreational programs;

(x)lands and buildings required for a municipal purpose;

(ah) playgrounds, trails, including trails developed, operated or maintained pursuant to an agreement made under clause 73(c), bicycle paths, swimming pools, ice arenas and other recreational facilities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Friends of the Dartmouth Splashpad + Park submit their splash pad proposal to staff for review and recommendation to Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council.

BACKGROUND

On February 7, 2017, Regional Council approved the Community Facility Master Plan 2 (CFMP2) as a framework for municipal decision-making regarding recreation facilities and to incorporate its recommendations in future annual Business Plans for Council's consideration. As part of the CFMP2 approval, Regional Council directed staff to conduct a Long-Term Aquatic Strategy to assess the long-term aquatic needs (including splash pads) for the region and provide recommendations regarding the future provision of aquatic services. The development of the Long-Term Aquatic Strategy is currently underway with an estimated completion of Fall 2018.

As part of the design of the Multi – Year Budget and Business Plan development process, the Committee of the Whole reviewed each Business Unit's operating budget for 2017-18 and 2018-19, as well as the capital program budget for the same years, in advance of the detailed HRM Budget and Business Plan approval by Regional Council. The ten-year capital plan was also approved by the Committee of the Whole as part of the HRM budget process on April 26, 2018. No new splash pad projects have been identified in the capital plan to date. There is funding included for the recapitalization of the former wading pool for Halifax Common which may include consideration of a splash pad, pending the outcome of current consultations.

HRM has partnered on one other occasion with a community led initiative in the development of a splash pad. HRM and Kinsmen Club of Sackville established a new splash pad for the Kinsmen Park in 2014, for a total cost of \$501,000 (Fundraising - \$92,000; donated by Kinsman Club - \$25,000; donated material - \$50,000; Provincial funding - \$167,000; and Municipal funding - \$167,000).

DISCUSSION

Splash pads are outdoor, free play water facilities that can range in sizes and features. They are often enhancements to playgrounds and can be integrated or co-located with them. They provide safe, inclusive and accessible water play activity especially in locations where this type of activity is limited. Generally, splash pads cater to children from preschool to 12 years of age. However, new splash pad designs are also considering intergenerational play (i.e., parent, caregivers, and older ages, etc.)

The Halifax region currently has (6) six splash pads for a population of 400,000 people. They include the Halifax Central Common, George Dixon Recreation Centre, Isleville Street Playground, Westmount Playing round, Bayer's Westwood Playground, and Sackville Kinsmen Park. There are no splash pads currently located in Dartmouth.

Friends of the Dartmouth Splashpad + Park, a volunteer community led group, has come forward with a preliminary proposal to bring a regional splash pad to Dartmouth. It is recommended that the community organization submit a more detailed proposal for staff to review and evaluate that includes the following considerations:

- Proposed location options, i.e., recreation hubs and destinations such as community centres, appropriate parks, and near existing playgrounds
- Areas where there is limited access to safe and free water play opportunities
- Areas that are near transit service
- Areas that can access water services
- Consideration of demographics (population, ages, socio-economics, etc.)
- Demonstration of community support
- A strategy for funding

Based upon the proposed submission, staff will conduct an evaluation to determine the project feasibility and provide a recommendation for Community Council's consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The presentation and proposal are being lead by the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications at the assessment stage.

ALTERNATIVES

Community Council could choose to not proceed with this community proposal.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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