



MUNICIPALITY OF ARRAN-ELDERSLIE

STAFF REPORT

COUNCIL

May 25, 2021

SRREC 21.12

SUBJECT: Paisley Dog Park

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved that Council hereby:

- 1) Receive the Report SRREC 21.12 regarding the Paisley Dog Park Project; and
- 2) That Council hereby approve the Dr. Milne Park site plan, as shown in Appendix A;
- 3) That Council approve the Municipality to retain ownership, insurance and ongoing maintenance upon project completion;
- 4) That the Committee be required to complete an annual spring clean-up of the park;
- 5) That Council agree to pay ten percent (10%) or \$ 2,900.00 of this project; and
- 6) That Council provide the Paisley Dog Park Committee with a \$ 26,100.00, zero percent (0%) interest loan which shall be repaid back to the Municipality within ten (10) years, being financed from Account 01-0000-2101 – Working Capital.

Submitted by:

Carly Steinhoff
Manager of Facilities, Parks & Recreation

Reviewed by:

Christine Fraser-McDonald
Acting CAO

BACKGROUND:

A volunteer committee has been formed in Paisley following Jen McIsaac's Council presentation in late 2020. The committee has been meeting bi-weekly to develop a plan to realize a dog park in Paisley.

Location

The committee considered four (4) sites in Paisley. The considered sites included:

- Dr. Milne Park
- Vacant land on James Street
- Beside the Palace
- Mary Cumming Park

The committee voted unanimously that the preferred site be Dr. Milne Park. Attached as Appendix A to this report is the proposed site plan for the Dog Park. The plan includes a 66' x 75' area beside the pavilion, which will be used as the small dog area. The main dog park area will be approximately 41,817 square feet and will utilize much of the park space. Both areas will be fenced with a minimum height of five (5) feet and each area will have at least two (2) different entrances. The existing playground equipment and pavilion will remain at Dr. Milne Park and will remain outside of the fenced park area.

Challenges continue to occur at Dr. Milne Park regarding slumping lands. Because of the previous use of that site, staff regularly find new sinkholes and debris coming up through the ground. Staff fill in the areas as they occur, however, this is and will continue to be an ongoing issue with this site.

Staff had water sampling completed on the south side of this site and there were little concerns with the composition of the water. It was suggested within the Recreation Master Plan that a full environmental assessment be completed for this site, but the anticipated cost has not been provided for in the 2021 budget.

Timing

The committee is working to get this project moving as soon as possible. Volunteers are completing fundraising initiatives and grant applications to pay for the cost of the fence, benches, land preparation and signage. Ideally, the committee would like to have the Dog Park completed before the end of the summer.

Ownership and Insurance

Once the dog park is complete, the Municipality will own and be responsible for the dog park including the fencing, benches and any other assets that have been procured. Staff have discussed the addition of a dog park to the current insurance policy with the insurance company and there will be no annual cost increase or liability issues.

Ongoing Maintenance

Municipal staff will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the park. In its current state, staff cut the grass and weed eat the existing fence line, as required. There will be additional staff time required as maintenance along a chain link fence is more involved than the current wood fence. It is anticipated that the additional staff time required will be 7 hours per maintenance time.

Staff are requesting that although ownership and maintenance of the park is the responsibility of the Municipality, that the Committee organizes and hosts an annual spring clean-up day at the Park.

Funding

It is anticipated by the committee that the cost for this project will be \$ 29,000.00, which includes land preparation, fencing, benches and signage. Volunteers continue to reach out to contractors and vendors to determine exact costs and timeline for completion. Fundraising efforts have begun and individuals or businesses wanting to donate to the park can do so through the Municipal website.

Jen McIsaac approached Council on April 26, 2021 to request Council contribute 50% of funding for this initiative. Council may also consider utilizing the Municipality's Donation Policy, which is currently be updated and will be provided to Council at a future meeting. Within the updated Donation Policy, staff are suggesting that requests for donations toward community projects and initiatives can receive ten (percent (10%) of the total project cost, up to a maximum of \$ 10,000.00. This will ensure consistency among requests.

The Committee has also requested the group be eligible for an interest free loan to offset the remaining costs associated with the project. It is suggested that the Committee and the Municipality enter into an agreement with a maximum 10-year payback period. If Council approves this request, staff will create an agreement and bring back to Council for signatures and by-law adoption.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Should Council wish to donate ten percent (10%) of the total project cost, \$ 2,900.00 will be transferred from the Council Donation operating account.

If Council wishes to enter into a zero (0) percent interest loan with the committee, funding would be generated through the Working Capital Reserve 01-0000-2101.

As stated above, there will be additional staff time to maintain a chain link fence. The Parkland Wage account within the Operating Budget will be increased to reflect the addition.

CONCLUSION:

That Council approve the recommendations as presented in report SRREC 21.12 dated May 25, 2021.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Dr. Milne Park Dog Park Site Plan