



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: February 13, 2023

Subject: Proposed 2023 Grant Application Submissions

Report from: Carly Steinhoff, Park, Facilities and Recreation Manager

Appendices: None

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Direct staff to submit to the RED Grant program for upgrades to the Allenford Community Park.
2. Direct staff to investigate and/or submit grant application to the Legacy Fund – Building Communities through Arts and Heritage for the Paisley Library renovation/extension.

Report Summary

A request has been made from the Allenford Community Park Association for the Municipality to submit an application to the Rural Economic Development grant intake for ball diamond upgrades.

Staff have been made aware of the Legacy Fund – Building Communities through Arts and Heritage program offered through the Federal Government and will be investigating the potential to apply to the program for a renovation/extension to the Paisley Library.

Background

The Rural Economic Development program provides cost-share funding to support activities that create strong rural communities in Ontario and opens doors to rural economic development. Eligible costs of up to 50% of the project can be received through this program.

The Legacy Fund supports projects that commemorate a significant local historical event or pay tribute to a significant local historical personality, mark a 100th anniversary or greater, in increments of 25 years (e.g., 125th, 150th), involve the restoration, renovation, or transformation of existing buildings or exterior spaces with local community significance that are intended for community use and encourage arts and heritage activities in the local community that are intended for and accessible to the general public. Eligible costs of up to 50% of the project can be received through this program.

Analysis

ALLENFORD

In 2022, Council supported the Allenford Community Park Association with their application to the Community Foundation Grey-Bruce funding intake and were successful with their application. With their application, the group plans to repair the ball diamond fencing. Additional funding is required, to upgrade benches, add ball and helmet racks and cover additional fencing costs that could not be achieved with the original funding. The group cannot apply to this stream on their own as they do not meet eligibility requirements and will need the Municipality to be the applicant for the submission.

Staff believe that this is a positive opportunity to enhance the park in Allenford and no other projects have been identified to apply for funding utilizing this stream.

PAISLEY

The existing Paisley Library building is approximately 900 sqft in size. The County of Bruce has identified the need for an expansion of the library space by approximately an additional 500 sqft. The most recent plans to accommodate the expansion of library space was to relocate the branch to the 2nd floor of the Paisley Community Centre. Some concerns were raised with that proposal such as floor weight, accessibility and ease of access, location and size of elevator. Staff have been working on addressing these concerns. Funds have been identified to install a new lift in the Community Centre along with funds to upgrade and update the 2nd floor space.

Recently, another option that arose was to look to renovate the existing Paisley Library location with a small expansion and to update the front entrance and washroom to meet accessibility requirements. The 2nd Floor Community Centre space would also be renovated and updated to provide multi-purpose recreation and meeting space.

In 2024, Paisley will be celebrating its 150th anniversary of incorporation. The current Paisley Library Building was built in 1967 as a Centennial project to mark 100 years of confederation.

Staff believe there may be merit in investigating the possibility to seek up to 50% of the renovation/extension costs through the Legacy Fund as a historic anniversary project that will provide enhanced programming space, improved accessibility with the intention for increased usage of the space. Along with the enhanced 2nd floor space in the Community Centre this would also provide additional programming space which could also be utilized by Bruce County Library.

Staff can investigate the suitability of this grant for renovation of library space and submit the necessary grant application to clarify if this project would be suitable.

Should any other funding opportunities and grants arise, staff will continue to inform Council and seek appropriate direction and support.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.1 Protecting Infrastructure, Recreation and Natural Assets

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

At this time, there are no financial implications to the Municipality with this submission. The Allenford volunteer group is planning to fund this project through grants, donations and fundraising. Staff will assist the group with procurement, when required.

If the Municipality is successful in their grant application, all work must be approved by the Park, Facilities and Recreation Manager prior to submissions of invoices, work to be completed etc.

Approved by: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer