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Date: January 25, 2021
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Dan Wolicki, Manager of Municipal Facilities and Property
RE: Lions Club Fundraising Campaign – Lions Park Playground
Report No.: IED 2021-05

AIM

To inform Council of the proposed fundraising campaign by the Lions Club of Kingsville to fund a new playground structure and accessible surrounding surface area at Lions Park. To further obtain a commitment from Council to build the playground structure, if the Lions Club raises sufficient funds.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Kingsville is grateful for the ongoing work of the Lions Club of Kingsville within the Town of Kingsville. Their volunteerism and efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Lions Club of Kingsville have a living legacy of contributions within the municipality supporting many initiatives, special events, ongoing programs, and projects.

In 2019, the Manager of Municipal Facilities and Properties and Mayor attended a Lions Club Executive meeting and were provided an update on the initial considerations and redevelopment of the parklands at the Lions Park property. At that time, proposals for a trail and multi-use path, new playground, new basketball and a multi-purpose hardcourts were presented for the clubs information.

In the first quarter of 2020, the Lions Club reconnected with Mayor Santos to express an interest in pursuing a new community project and queried of how the Lions Club of Kingsville might be able to support the ongoing development of Lions Park. In a series of exchanges and discussions held by the Lions Club membership and updates on the phased-plan approach for the Lions Park development, the Lions Club advised that the membership had confirmed their intentions to provide a leading sponsorship for an accessible playground installation.

DISCUSSION

Following the Lions Club's review of the location, design concepts, and securing confirmation from the organizations non-for-profit fundraising licensing (bingos, etc.), they confirmed in early September 2020 that the Lions Club of Kingsville will pledge \$65,000 towards the new playground equipment.

The Town will assist with collecting contributions and/or donations along with issuing corresponding tax receipts as applicable. The Town will agree to hold collected funds in a specific reserve allocated to the playground structure derived from ongoing community fundraising efforts and donations set out by the Lions Club of Kingsville.

Appendix A of this report contains the approved concept design of the Lions Park Master Plan for Development. Council approved this design in July 2018. The implementation of the playground equipment is included in Phase 3 of the development plans which is tentatively scheduled to occur in 2022. Currently, the Town will look to proceed in entering Phase 2 of the development project with its completion in 2021.

Attached in Appendix B is a letter from the Lions Club of Kingsville indicating their support for the proposed donation.

The Lions Club of Kingsville will be consulted and requested to provide input on designs received while accepting that the Town shall maintain oversight and final decision-making authority over all aspects within the project.

The Mayor will be providing a letter of understanding to the Lions Club to confirm these arrangements and the commitment of Council.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Improve recreational and cultural facilities and opportunities within the Town of Kingsville.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

\$65,000 of donations from the Lions Club provided towards playground equipment and related surfacing with annual installments of \$6,500.

There is always some degree of uncertainty regarding the success of fundraising campaigns. It is management's understanding that the Lion's Club intends to run their campaign until June 2021. Given this timeline, the Town will know how successful the campaign is before committing to the construction of the playground. If the campaign is not successful, Council will need to make a decision whether or not to proceed with the project. If the decision is made to not proceed, any donations will be returned to the donors.

CONSULTATIONS

Lions Club of Kingsville
Kingsville Senior Management Team
Legislative Services

Financial Services

RECOMMENDATION

That (1) Council support the proposed fundraising campaign by the Lions Club of Kingsville to fund a new playground structure and accessible surrounding surface area at Lions Park, and further that (2) Council commits to build the playground structure if the Lions Club raises sufficient funds.

Dan Wolicki _____

Dan Wolicki
Manager of Municipal Facilities and Property