

Priorities Committee Meeting_Nov22_2016

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**Municipal Investment on Potential School Sites – Status Update****Report Purpose**

To provide a status update on Council's request regarding policies and guidelines for Municipal Investment on Potential School Sites.

Council History

February 16, 2016 – Priorities Committee requested information regarding policies and guidelines that guide the decision-making process when investing in recreation facilities on Municipal Reserve designated lands.

April 26, 2016 – Council directed that Administration prepare for Council's consideration, a policy that will ensure criteria for any municipal investment, including recreation facilities, on potential school sites by the end of Q2 2016.

July 5, 2016 – Council directed that Administration prepare for Council's consideration, a policy that will ensure criteria for any municipal investment, including recreation facilities, on potential school sites by the end of Q2 2016, be amended by replacing "Q2" with "Q3."

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: Strategically planning municipal investment in infrastructure on public service lands will ensure sound investment and fiscal sustainability.

Governance: Working collaboratively with affected users and operators of public service lands will build trust with the community and foster sound relationships.

Social: Public service lands are areas which create a sense of community; bring people together in a safe and inclusive way.

Culture: Public service lands when successfully planned can provide a space for creative community gatherings.

Environment: Planning public service lands collaboratively will limit land use conflicts and protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: Policy will be reviewed by Legislative and Legal Services

Interdepartmental: Other departments affected by the policy are: Recreation, Parks and Culture, Financial Services, Capital Planning and Construction, Utilities, Transit, Family and Community Services, Communications, Emergency Services, and Transportation and Agriculture Services.

Summary

Planning and Development Services is working on coordinating a process for the use of Municipal Reserve land that has been identified for a future school site. The intent is to strategically plan these lands for public use and ensure all municipal infrastructure is placed according to community needs.

To achieve this, Administration is reviewing the use of Park Master Plans in advance of any new infrastructure being placed on lands that have been identified as potential school sites. The purpose of a Parks Master Plan will be to identify how the Municipal Reserve can be utilized with the understanding that there is a potential for a future school site on the property in the near or distant future. A "building pocket" for a future school site will be identified as part of this process. Once the building pocket for the school is identified, the remainder of the site can be programmed with respect to the building pocket. In addition, these Master Plans can review pedestrian connectivity, traffic, utilities, safety considerations, environmental sensitivities, recreational needs, school authority needs, and financial implications.

The intent is to identify the use of Park Master Plans throughout the planning hierarchy. Planning and Development Services is currently updating the Municipal Development Plan and identifying the need to use Park Master Plans for future school sites. As the planning process continues from the statutory planning phase to rezoning, Park Master Plans will be created for each new school site.

For existing Municipal Reserve lands that have not been developed but have been identified for future school sites, a Parks Master Plan will be required prior to Recreation Parks and Culture or any other department planning or building infrastructure on the site. If it is identified that a school site is not suitable at that location as part of this process, Planning and Development Services can bring back amendments to Council in order to remove the school site designation from the existing Area Structure Plan.

Park Master Plans will be sent to the School Site Allocation Committee to ensure the School Boards are in agreement with planning of the site and future school location. All Park Master Plans will require approval by Council.

Communication Plan:

Consultation with the School Boards will be required when creating a Park Master Plan for a potential future school site.