

Topic: Parkland Big Lake Community Association – Recreational Land Lease Request

Introduction:

As per Policy RP 001, Parkland Big Lake Community Association's (PBLACA) request a recreational land lease of Lot 211MR, Lakeshore Estates, SE 23-53-26-W4M is being presented to Council for consideration.

Background Information:

Parkland Big Lake Area Community Association has been extremely active in their efforts to establish a playground in their area. In February 2014, Council demonstrated its commitment to the project by approving a Sustainability Grant application in the amount of \$100,000. Following this commitment, Parkland Big Lake Area Community Association applied for a Community Facility Enhancement Grant for the balance of the funds required for the project for which a funding decision is expected in the very near future.

Anticipating the project will be funded in time to enable a fall installation, the next step required is the securing of land for the project. The above mentioned municipal reserve has long been the preferred location for the playground due to its size, proximity to residences and ease of access to the public.

Administration from Parks, Recreation and Culture, Drainage and Public Works met on-site to review the location, provide feedback and recommendations should this project proceed. Issues around site drainage, site access, parking and appropriate signage were all identified as areas of focus to ensure the project's success. A summary of all of this information has been shared with PBLACA's Board of Directors with the expectation that all areas of emphasis would be addressed.

The initial development on the site will include a playground, fencing and potentially a parking lot.

Analysis:

Administration has been involved at various levels with PBLACA since this initiative began and is confident that this project can be completed successfully should the required funding be secured. All of the items identified in the site meeting can be addressed either by PBLACA or through partnership with Administration.

Should Council approve this lease, PBLACA will proceed with playground development and assume maintenance responsibilities for all assets and landscaping on the parcel.

Alternatives:

1. Council could approve a recreational land lease at a different location.
2. Council could choose to not approve a recreational land lease for this initiative.

Conclusion/Summary:

Administration is recommending approval of the recreational land lease request. Parkland Big Lake Community Association has done a significant amount of background work in relation to this project and has support from local residents to proceed. This lease further demonstrates Council's commitment to the success of this playground development which will be a truly valued amenity for area residents.

AUTHOR: Lenny Richer
Culture

Department: Parks, Recreation and

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