

Topic: Rich's Point – Request to install stairs on Municipal Reserve

Introduction:

As per Policy RP001 Municipal Reserve – Recreational Uses, this request is being present to Council for approval.

Background Information:

In April, 2016 Administration has received a formal request from Mr. Ron Hageman to develop a pedestrian trail through a Park Reserve located in the Rich's Point Subdivision (2883 KS/1/7 P). He identified 3 parcels of public land owned by Parkland in his initial proposal, and expressed concerns over encroachments which prevented public access to these parcels. His preference was to develop a 2 meter wide foot path approximately 10 meters from the west boundary of the parcel as to minimize the potential impact to the adjacent property owner. Mr. Hageman's initial request was for the County to conduct the work, however also indicated he would be willing to do the work himself if necessary.

Policy RP001 provides direction for requests pertaining to the recreational use of municipal reserves, and as such Administration used this policy to guide the process. To determine the level of support for the trail, Administration requested that Mr. Hageman approach area residents and provide the feedback he received. At the time that the formal request was submitted, Mr. Hageman and received support from 9 property owners and opposition by 2. Mr. Hageman indicated that many of the residents he was unable to connect with were seasonal property owners who were not regularly at their lots at this that time of year.

Upon a review of the information submitted, Administration determined that there was a need to ensure all area residents were provided an opportunity to provide input to the request. A letter was mailed out to all residents within the Rich's Point Subdivision (attached) which outlined the nature of the request and requested their comments either for or against the proposed trail. Administration received a response from an additional 14 property owners, plus three who were a part of Mr. Hageman's initial package. Of the responses, 3 were in favor of the request, 12 were opposed, while the remaining 2 didn't take a definitive stance but did express some concerns.

Those who are opposed to the trail being developed identified common areas of concern. These included:

- Environmental concerns from changing the natural state of the reserve
- Potential for shoreline damage from constant use
- Concerns with the potential of increased OHV use
- Concerns it will increase traffic to the area, parking along the roadway may increase
- Concerns with who would be responsible to maintain the trail, monitor garbage, etc.
- Identified the fact that there is an accessible day use park in close proximity to the resident's property

- Concerns with regards to the number of trees that would have to be removed to facilitate the trail development
- Nesting area is in close proximity to where the trail would be developed, concerns with the impacts it would have

Details of his request can be found in the attached documentation. Included in the information, is a map outlining 2883 KS/1/7 P on which the trail would be built, the property owners who are in favor of the trail request (identified in green), the residents opposed (identified in red), residents who didn't formally show support or lack of but have concerns with the potential trail (identified in blue) and the location of Mr. Hageman's property (identified in orange).

Analysis:

Administration has reviewed the information provided by Mr. Hageman, along with the feedback received by residents. Municipal Reserves are meant to be accessible and enjoyed by all residents. Given that the majority of residents who have provided feedback are opposed to the request, along with the fact that there is a Day Use Park in close proximity providing access to the water, which is maintained by County staff, Administration is not recommending that this request be approved.

Alternatives:

- I. Council approve the request. Should Council approve the request, Administration would recommend the following:
 - Mr. Hageman enter into a formal agreement with Parkland County outlining terms and conditions of the approval
 - Mr. Hageman be responsible for the construction of the trail to a standard approved by Parkland County
 - Mr. Hageman be responsible for ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the trail
 - The trail would remain open and accessible to all

Conclusion/Summary:

Upon review of the request as well all of the information received, Administration does not support this request being approved. Should Council wish to approve the request, Administration will work with Mr. Hageman to meet and terms and conditions outlined by Council.

AUTHOR: Lenny Richer

Department: Parks, Recreation and Culture

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