

FORMAL REPORT

To:	Chair Stratthdee and Members of Strategic Priorities Committee
Prepared by:	Stephanie Ische, Director of Community Services
Date of Meeting:	20 June 2017
Subject:	DCS 15-2017 Recreation Master Plan Update – Review of Planning Context Report

PURPOSE

This report provides a current status update regarding the Recreation Master Plan project, and introduces the Recreation and Leisure Master Plan Planning Context Report. Representatives from Monteith Brown will attend the June 20 Strategic Priorities Committee meeting to review the planning context report with Council.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT report DCS 15-2017 Recreation Master Plan Update – Review of Planning Context Report be received for discussion.

BACKGROUND

On August 16, 2016 staff brought forward to the Special Priorities Committee meeting a report outlining the existing Community Services programming currently offered. This was an opportunity to review all of the Community Services Department programming with Council as Council was in the beginning stages of considering a project to undertake a recreation master plan. Through this report staff presented Council with information regarding the programs provided by each department, the primary user group and the agreements that are currently in place. The Committee asked for follow-up information regarding the Town's ability to undertake a recreation master planning project immediately.

At the August 30, 2016 Council received a report to address the need to update the Town of St. Marys Recreation Master Plan. Council approved the recreation master plan project to proceed with a budget of \$65,000 and a Request for Proposal was prepared.

On October 21, 2016 a Request for Proposal went out asking for submissions to update the Town of St. Marys Recreation and Leisure Master Plan and Monteith Brown was the successful candidate.

Work on the Recreation and Leisure Master Plan began in January 2017.

REPORT

A steering committee of key stakeholders was developed and meetings with the consultants began January 6, 2017. The initial meeting included background information, Master Plan goals and expectations and communications protocols. To date Monteith Brown has held a public meeting, survey for community, held focus groups and key informant interviews. Information has been collected including budgets, policies, current programs/services, fee structure, organization chart and all recreation statistics, recreation inventory, building condition studies, current partnership agreements in place to name a few.

The Planning Context Report summarizes the Town's current inventory of recreation and leisure services opportunities, public consultation themes and on line survey results. The draft planning context report was presented to the steering committee in April. Next steps will be to develop recommendations based on information and research collected. These recommendations will help shape the direction for Recreation and Leisure Services for the next 10 years.

SUMMARY

Recreation is an experience for residents and allows them to participate in many ways including, physically, socially, intellectually and creatively. A recreation master plan is a guiding document that helps shape the direction for the municipality. Next steps will include completion of the Master Plan that will be presented to Council. Once this document is complete it will guide our municipal decision-making on recreation and leisure services over the next 10 years.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There has been no change to the budget.

OTHERS CONSULTED

Monteith Brown Planning Consultants.

Strategic Plan: this initiative is supported by the following priorities, outcomes and tactics in the Plan:

Pillar #4 Culture and Recreation: Readjusting existing recreational services to a more scale-appropriate level will result in some measure of cost-savings for the Town by enabling it to reallocate funding to other priorities. In some cases, volunteers and the private sector can take on leadership or partnership roles for the delivery of some recreational services that are underutilized.

Strategic Priority for a "Recreation Services Master Plan"

- Outcome: Assessing the real needs of residents in terms of providing the right fit for recreational services provided by the Town will require contracting out for a consultant who specializes in this area given the exhaustive analysis to be performed in providing key recommendations.
- Tactic(s): Secure a consultant to complete a recreation master plan, implement the key recommendations as required, develop an inclusion policy, and review the long term effectiveness of the recreation master plan at key points in time to ensure currency and fit with the Town's priorities.

Strategic Priority for "Repurposing the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC)"

Outcome: As the PRC is adequate to a population of 30,000, it far exceeds the needs of the current population and thus results in additional costs to the Town. A more integrated approach may be preferable.

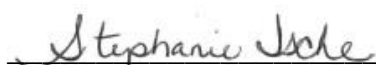
- Tactics: Align future use of PRC with the findings of the recreation services master plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Planning Context Report

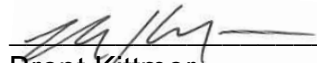
REVIEWED BY

Recommended by the Department



Stephanie Ische
Director of Community Services

Recommended by the CAO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BK", is written over a horizontal line.

Brent Kittmer
CAO / Clerk