



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator

MEETING DATE: September 21, 2010

SUBJECT: Report APRAC10-032
Dixon Park Play Structure

PURPOSE

A report to update the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on the selected location and construction of the Play Structure within Dixon Park.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC10-032 dated September 21, 2010, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

That Report APRAC10-032 be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget or financial implications resulting from approval of the recommendations of report APRAC10-032.

BACKGROUND

On October 15, 2008, the Recreation Division received a letter from a resident in the Dixon Park neighbourhood, inquiring about the possibility of constructing a play structure within Dixon Park.

On November 18, 2008, the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC) reviewed the letter regarding the resident's request to construct the play structure in Dixon Park. APRAC approved that staff work with the residents in the Dixon Park neighbourhood to form a Neighbourhood Association (NA).

On January 15, 2009, Recreation Division Staff assisted a few neighbours with holding a public meeting at Queen Elizabeth School to identify the level of interest within the neighbourhood. Invitations were sent to over 200 residences in the area of Dixon Park. The invitation included a map and an opportunity for people to identify what they would like to see in this park. Only 14 individuals attended the meeting. From the 14 attendees, 7 individuals volunteered to spearhead the project. The minutes from the first meeting were mailed to all 200 original invitees.

Additional meetings of the NA were held on January 29 and February 26, 2009. In March 2009, a newsletter was hand delivered to all residents within the park area. The newsletter stated what the NA had identified as the goals for the park. Also included was a list of names and contact information of the NA members, to provide opportunity for people to offer input and/or ask questions.

In May 2009, the NA went door to door canvassing the neighbours for their support, to answer any questions, and receive further input. Also in May 2009, a second newsletter was hand delivered to the neighbours, identifying upcoming fundraising events, recruitment for volunteers, and notification of an email address for the NA.

In June 2009, the NA organized a large scale garage and bake sale in the park. Updates were provided to the over 300 individuals who attended this event.

In January 2010, the NA met at the Park with City staff from Planning, Public Works and Recreation to review drawings of the park and to select the best location for the play structure. Later in January, the NA delivered posters to the neighbours inviting them to attend a Family Fun Day in the park on February 15th, at which time an update would be provided.

By February 2010, the NA had raised their required 15% minimum contribution towards the estimated cost of the project. The NA met with the Recreation Division to discuss the RFP process and what their involvement would be in selecting their play structure features.

At its meeting held March 16, 2010, the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approved recommendation (a) of Report APRAC10-013, (2010 Community Assistance Projects), which allocated Community Assistance funding for the construction of a children's play structure in Dixon Park.

In March and April 2010, the NA continued to meet with City staff to select the playground features. The NA did not want a standard type play structure, and the City agreed to try something different in this park. The NA took the ideas back to their neighbours for input.

In May 2010, the NA met with City staff to finalize the selection of play structure features. The City issued an RFP and a proponent was selected, as per the City's Purchasing By-Law.

In late August 2010, Public Works began the landscaping for the installation of the play structure. It was at this point that members of the NA raised a concern that the location that was excavated was not the intended location for the play structure. City staff also heard from 6 other individuals, expressing displeasure with the location of the play structure. The main concern was that the location would interfere with the ice rink, during winter months.

On September 7, 2010, City staff from Recreation and Public Works met with members of the NA and the Dixon Park Rink Committee to discuss their concerns regarding location of the play structure. This resulted in the installation of the play structure being postponed from September 8th to October 18th.

Based on the outcome of the September 7th meeting, City Staff have made the decision to locate the play structure in the southwest corner of the park. Six of the 7 NA members support this location. The 7th member was opposed to any development within the park. The grade of the land in the southwest corner of the park is appropriate for the play structure. This location does not interfere with the rink, the small toboggan hill, the baseball diamond, or the open green space. It also offers good visibility, which makes it a safe place for children to play and limits the likelihood of the structure being vandalized.

SUMMARY

In 2008, the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approved that staff assist in the establishment of a NA for Dixon Park. The goal of the NA is to construct a play structure in Dixon Park. Over the past 18 months, the Dixon Park NA has worked diligently to provide opportunity for the neighbours of Dixon Park to be involved in the planning process and fund raising activities. The design of the approved play structure is different from the standard play structures found in other City parks. The installation

of the structure was delayed for approximately one month to address concerns from the NA, the Dixon Park Rink Committee, and other neighboring residents. The City has made the final decision to locate the structure in the southwest corner of the park, to address the concerns raised. Construction is scheduled to begin on October 18, 2010.

Submitted by,

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