



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Mary Gallop, Manager, Facilities & Special Projects

Meeting Date: December 10, 2014

Subject: Report APRAC14-037
West End Splash Pad Process Update

Purpose

A report to discuss a revised location for the west end splash pad.

Recommendations

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC14-037 dated December 10, 2014, of the Manager of Facilities and Special Projects, as follows:

- a) That a presentation by the Manager of Facilities and Special Projects be received;
- b) That Roper Park not be supported as the location of the west end splash pad,
- c) That the Committee receive citizen delegations on this report, and
- d) That a new location at Kinsmen Civic Centre be considered for the new splash pad and staff undertake community consultation to determine community interest in this location.

Budget and Financial Implications

Council approved \$369,864 in Council Report CSRS14-002 to undertake the design and construction of a west end splash pad. The approval of APRAC14-036 and the approval of a report to City Council would bring the total budget to \$443,762.

Background

The west end splash pad project was reviewed by the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on March 18, 2014 in staff report APRAC14-012 and on September 17, 2014 in staff report APRAC14-025.

Staff undertook public consultation on November 19, 2014 in the Roper Park neighbourhood and approximately 50 residents showed up. The purpose of the consultation was to secure input into the park location, its viability and potential features that could be contained in the splash pad. The great majority of the community comments revolved around the following issues expressed by residents:

1. Concern over lack of parking and the issue of safety for children travelling to the park between cars parked on Fair Avenue and Firwood Crescent.
2. Lack of sidewalks on Firwood Crescent for children to safely get to the park.
3. Fair Avenue was identified as a very fast moving road (beyond normal speed limits) which poses a safety concern for children.
4. Concerns over water and drainage as the park possessed a pre-existing drainage issue.
5. Removal of greenspace with the construction of this feature.
6. Increased traffic on quiet streets.
7. Noise from children intruding upon private homes.
8. Property values decreasing with this type of feature in the park.
9. Lack of planning for a park that is sized to contain this feature
10. Timing of this construction and why it is not constructed before the subdivision was constructed.

There were some comments that were supportive and they included: (i) the splash pad would be a wonderful addition to an otherwise quiet park, and (ii) would see more children coming out of their homes to use the park. However the supportive comments were in the minority.

Following the community meeting, staff received a number of written submissions and e-mails both supporting and opposing the splash pad at Roper Park, most for the reasons identified above.

Staff reviewed all the comments and submissions of the residents and upon further consideration, are recommending that the splash pad not be constructed in Roper Park. Once constructed, this splash pad would be the only one in the west end and it will likely attract a substantial amount of traffic. The key issues that staff are concerned with are the safety of children due to a lack of adequate parking, speed issues on Fair Avenue, lack of sidewalks on Firwood Crescent and potential for accidents with increased traffic to the park.

Staff reviewed other potential sites that would contain a large enough site and address the other concerns residents expressed at the Roper Park meeting. The Kinsmen Civic Centre is such a site and staff will present further details on its location at the APRAC meeting on December 10, 2014.

Submitted by,

Mary Gallop, Manager
Facilities & Special Projects

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