

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN
School Playground Grant Program

Motion:

That Council adopt School Playground Grant Policy FIN-019-C.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information and to request consideration of the attached School Playground Grant Program Policy FIN-019-C.

Background:

During the November 18th, 2014 regular Council Meeting, the following resolution was passed:

MOVED BY Councillor Bossert that \$25,000 per year be placed in a reserve fund for elementary schools, junior high schools, and middle schools with playgrounds, and that Administration develop a school playground grant policy.

Administration has drafted a Council Policy to oversee a School Playground Grant Program. The policy will oversee the funding and allocation of the funds for school playgrounds in Fort Saskatchewan. This type of a program is unique, as it only pertains to school playgrounds. Both the Elk Island Public Schools Regional Division No.14 and Elk Island Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 41 agree that the funding should be provided directly from the municipality to the successful registered society or non-profit group to assist in their fundraising efforts for developing school playgrounds. However, neither School Board supported any level of involvement in the initiative.

In an effort to effectively inform potential applicants of this Policy, Administration will work with the Communications Department to advertise the initiative on the City's website and use other appropriate methods of communication.

Next Steps:

Administration has developed processes to administer the program and has set out the following criteria:

- A need for the funds requested;
- Ability to construct in year of application;
- Active fund-raising efforts;
- Level of financial stability;
- Percentage of matching funds; and
- Adequate insurance coverage.

The grant will be awarded through reimbursement for monies expended.

Plans/Standards/Legislation:

City of Fort Saskatchewan Strategic Plan:

3.2. Develop new and expand existing recreation facilities and programs.

Community Sustainability Plan:

Well maintained and utilized parks, greenbelts and greenways incorporating the natural environment with heritage and recreation.

Financial Implications:

On an annual basis \$25,000 will be transferred into the School Playground Reserve Fund.

Internal Impacts:

The Infrastructure Management and Finance Departments will work cooperatively to develop appropriate procedures for this Policy.

Alternatives:

1. That Council adopt School Playground Grant Policy FIN-019-C.
2. That Council not adopt School Playground Grant Policy FIN-019-C, and advise how they wish to proceed.

Recommendation:

That Council adopt School Playground Grant Policy FIN-019-C.

Attachment:

School Playground Grant Program Policy FIN-019-C

File No.:

Prepared by:	Christine Beveridge Legislative Officer	Date: May 15, 2015
Approved by:	Troy Fleming General Manager, Infrastructure and Community Services	Date: May 20, 2015
Reviewed by:	Kelly Kloss City Manager	Date: May 20, 2015
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: May 26, 2015