

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Notice of Motion – Andy Polanski Charitable Foundation Contribution

Motion:

That the City of Fort Saskatchewan contribute \$40,000.00, to be funded from the Parks Reserve, to the Andy Polanski Charitable Foundation for the construction of Andy's Playground at the Dow Centennial Fields.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to determine if Council wishes to contribute \$40,000.00, to be funded from the Parks Reserve, to the Andy Polanski Charitable Foundation for the construction of Andy's Playground.

Background:

At the June 9, 2015 regular Council meeting, Councillor Blizzard presented a motion that the City of Fort Saskatchewan contribute \$40,000.00, to be funded from the Parks Reserve, to the Andy Polanski Charitable Foundation for the construction of Andy's Playground.

Discussion:

In the past Council has received requests from community organizations for funding, including playgrounds.

- In 1999, Council was approached by a group for the Fort Elementary School playground project. No funding was approved but some in-kind assistance was provided.
- In 2004, a community group provided Council with an update of their project titled "Alex's Playground". No request for funding was received.
- On March 12, 2013, the Ecole Parc Elementaire Playground Fundraising Committee approached Council for funding of a new playground in the amount of \$25,000. Council did not approve this request, however on May 26, 2015 Council did approve a School Playground Granting Program in the amount of \$25,000 per year to address school playground funding requests in the future. What this policy does is provide predictability and guidance to administration and the community.
- On March 25, 2014, Council did provide a grant to the Andy Polanski Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$1,680 to support the May 2014 Andy Polanski Classic So-Pitch Tournament, and the June 2014 Andy Polanski Memorial Ball Hockey Tournament.

The City often receives inquiries from a number of community organizations to support fundraising activities, construction of new recreation amenities, and rental of City facilities.

Currently, each member of Council does have a \$1,200 promotional budget to be used at their discretion, for community related activities. Beyond the School Playground Grant Policy, no other grant policy is in place.

Proceeding with a grant to the Andy Polanski Charitable Foundation, may encourage other requests for grants. In order to be proactive, Council may wish to first establish a granting policy and program that would guide the disbursement of grants to community organizations. A budget would also need to be established to administer and fund such a program.

Alternatives:

1. That Council approve the notice of motion.
2. That Council not approve the notice of motion.
3. That Council direct Administration to bring back a granting program to provide additional grants to community organizations for consideration during the 2016 budget deliberations.

Recommendation:

Should Council wish to provide additional grants to community organizations, consideration should first be given to establishing a program that will guide the application and granting process. This program would require an ongoing budget allocation. Consideration of such a program could be part of the 2016 budget deliberations.

Prepared by:	Sheryl Exley Legislative Officer	Date: June 12, 2015
Approved by:	Brenda Molter Director, Legislative Services	Date: June 17, 2015
Approved by:	Brenda Rauckman General Manager, Corporate & Protective Services	Date: June 17, 2015
Reviewed by:	Kelly Kloss City Manager	Date: June 17, 2015
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: June 23, 2015