



Corporate Report

NO: R151

COUNCIL DATE: July 28, 2008

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **July 23, 2008**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **1750-01**
General Manager, Finance and Technology

SUBJECT: **Funding for Mat Room at Newton Recreation Centre**

RECOMMENDATION

That Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Finance & Technology Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Authorize the allocation of \$1.0 Million from the 2007 Community Facility Partnership Fund to the design and construction of a mat room as part of the current expansion to the Newton Recreation Centre.

BACKGROUND

Council approved the 2007 – 2011 Five-Year Financial Plan on February 12, 2007. The Plan contained a capital allocation of \$1.0 Million for each year, described in Corporate Report No. F007 as being for “Partnerships in the Delivery of Recreational Services.” The funding was for the purpose of developing partnerships with community organizations that would lead to renovations and/or additions to existing City facilities, to make these facilities better suited to hosting recreational activities that presently have no purpose-built facilities to support them. Alternately, the funding was to be used as the City’s matching contribution that may be required to receive senior government grants for important recreation infrastructure projects. In essence, the City’s \$1.0 Million fund will be used to leverage other funding, for the benefit of the greater community.

On July 4, 2007, Council adopted the recommendations of Corporate Report No. F016 (attached as Appendix A), which established the model/criteria that would be used by the City in evaluating partnership proposals.

DISCUSSION

Staff is continuing to negotiate with one of the proponents that submitted a proposal to the 2007 \$1.0 Million Partnership Fund. The proposal calls for the development of a recreation amenity in Surrey; however, at this time a final agreement has not been completed due to site location challenges. It is anticipated that the details of the agreement, specifically the site location may take a few months to conclude. It is also anticipated that the 2007 Fund will not need to be utilized to advance the proponent's proposal. None of the other proposals received in relation to the 2007 proposal call were acceptable in relation meeting the criteria for funding from the City.

Staff is now recommending that the 2007 Partnership Fund of \$1 million be reallocated to the Newton Recreation Centre expansion project (i.e., a gymnasium is being added to the Centre). The Newton Recreation Centre addition has been funded through a BC Canada Rural Infrastructure Grant with a project budget of \$3 million; with one third funding from each of the Provincial, Federal and Municipal orders of government.

Staff is aware of that there continue to be growing recreational needs in the Newton community. There have been several discussions with members of the community regarding the need for a mat room to provide space to respond to the growing interest in youth wrestling. A mat room could also be utilized for pre-school tumbling programs, gymnastics, martial arts sports, self-defense courses and a variety of wellness programs. Based on current construction estimates, \$1 million would be sufficient to construct a 3,000 sq. ft. "mat" room (accommodating two regulation size wrestling mats) as an addition to the Newton Recreation Centre. This is considered by staff to be an effective addition to the Newton facility. Staff will work with the architect with a view to designing the Recreation Centre expansion such that the new gymnasium space can be used to accommodate a third temporary regulation size wrestling mat and related spectator space for wrestling tournaments (staff understands that a 3-mat configuration is most suitable for wrestling tournaments).

CONCLUSION

The reallocation of funds to the Newton project is consistent with the intent of the \$1.0 Million Community Recreation Facility Partnership Fund in that it is supporting a project that is receiving funding from sources outside of the City and would be directed to the construction of a mat room that is currently not available in the Newton area. Newton is one of the fastest growing areas in Surrey with one of the largest demographics of young people and hence has high demand for recreation facility space. Therefore, building an expanded recreation centre in this community is a priority and is consistent with the recently adopted Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan

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