



Corporate Report

NO: R199

COUNCIL DATE: October 6, 2008

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: October 1, 2008**

FROM: General Manager, Parks Recreation & Culture **FILE: 1750-01**
General Manager, Planning & Development

SUBJECT: Newton Recreation Centre Expansion

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture and Planning and Development Department recommend that Council direct \$1,000,000 from the 2008 Community Partnership Fund be reallocated to the Newton Recreation Centre Expansion Project.

BACKGROUND

At its Regular Meeting on July 28, 2008, Council considered Corporate Report No. R151 (copy attached) and in adopting its recommendations approved an allocation of \$1,000,000 from the 2007 Community Partnership Fund to allow for the design and construction of a mat room as an addition to the current expansion of the Newton Recreation Centre. The expansion also includes a gymnasium that is being funded in part by a \$1.6 million grant from the Canada-BC Rural Municipal Infrastructure Fund (\$800,000 Federal, \$800,000 Provincial).

Over the past two months staff have worked with a design consultant and cost consultants to develop a more detailed design and cost estimate for the entire project. The detailed cost estimates indicate that additional funding is required for the project due in part to changes to the scope of the project to make it more effective in meeting the needs of users and in part related to some optimistic original estimates related to the overall construction costs of the project.

The mat room has been enlarged to accommodate two full-size regulation mats (40 feet by 40 feet for each mat), entranceways and better circulation space. This room is now designed to be 3,600 square feet in floor area in comparison to the original area of 3,000 square feet. Additional washrooms and mechanical space are also required to support the increased occupancy load. Other more subtle design elements have also contributed to additional costs such as the cost of glazing to address CPTED concerns in the areas immediately surrounding the new addition.

The project budget currently stands at \$4,000,000. The revised project estimates including an appropriate contingency indicate that a budget of \$5,000,000 is necessary.

Source of Funding

As part of the 2008 budget process, Council approved an allocation of \$1 million to the Community Partnership Fund, which is intended to provide capital funds for partnerships with private sector or not-for-profit partners in the provision of new recreation services in the City. This Fund has not been utilized this year nor has the City made any commitments related to this Fund. As such, it is available for reallocation subject to Council approval.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council direct \$1,000,000 from the 2008 Community Partnership Fund be reallocated to the Newton Recreation Centre Expansion project.

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Parks, Recreation and Culture

Jean Lamontagne
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Attachment – Corporate Report No. R151

Cc: G.M. Finance & Technology

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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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