



Report Number: PFC2021-0416

Meeting: Priorities & Finance Committee

Meeting Date: 2021 March 16

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Storm Pond Safety

Sponsoring Councillor(s): George Chahal

WHEREAS there are more than 300 storm ponds across Calgary for which The City is responsible;

AND WHEREAS storm ponds in Calgary serve to collect excess water from large storm events and thereby protect properties and areas downstream from flooding and riverbank erosion;

AND WHEREAS storm ponds also serve an ecological function, by settling out sediment and contaminants from surface runoff before the water reaches the Bow River;

AND WHEREAS storm ponds are extremely dangerous due to poor water quality (sediment and contaminants) that can cause the ice on storm ponds to be thinner and weaker;

AND WHEREAS due to various risks including rapidly changing water levels and poor water quality, a storm pond should not be used for recreational purposes like wading, skating, sledding or walking on ice;

AND WHEREAS there have been several serious incidents at storm ponds in recent years which have resulted in major injuries or death in Calgary and other municipalities;

AND WHEREAS other major cities, including Edmonton, have conducted public safety audits, reviewed standards, and addressed risks of storm pond facilities in order to ensure the public is safe.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council directs City Administration to:

1. Complete an initial public safety investigation into storm ponds in close proximity to high risk areas including, but not limited to, schools, playgrounds, and high use parks, identify and implement any short-term improvements which can be quickly deployed, and report back to Council no later than Q4 2021 with an update on this work;
2. Complete a full public safety audit of all storm ponds in Calgary, regarding factors such as water level and quality, vegetation, bank erosion, signage, and drainage operations equipment, to assess gaps and opportunities in safety measures surrounding storm ponds, with a report back to Council on or before Q3 2022 outlining recommendations and funding sources to make the necessary upgrades for additional safety measures;
3. Immediately expand the public awareness campaign focused on storm pond safety, using communication methods that are culturally appropriate for all Calgarians.

NOTICE OF MOTION CHECKLIST

The checklist is a tool intended to support the sponsor(s) of a Notice of Motion. The items listed below are important considerations when crafting and submitting a Notice of Motion. It is also intended to support other Members of Council, as the same considerations are important when reaching a decision on a Notice of Motion.

The checklist is therefore an opportunity for the sponsor(s) to:

- consider what advice might be helpful to them in formulating their proposal; and
- share key points about the advice received with their Council colleagues, to inform their deliberations.

This document is recommended to be provided to City Clerks alongside every Notice of Motion and will become part of the Corporate record. It is at the discretion of the sponsor(s) to decide with whom to consult and what information to include.

Title of the Motion: Storm Pond Safety

There are two classifications of a Notice of Motion (Check the one that applies):

Urgent (Include details in Urgency Rationale box below)

Is this Notice of Motion Confidential? (Include details in Procedural box below)

Financial and Other Resource Capacity
Finance was consulted in the drafting of this Notice.
Legal / Legislative
Law was consulted in the drafting of this Notice.

Technical Content
n/a
Procedural (Including reasons for confidentiality)
n/a
Other Considerations
n/a
Urgency Rationale
n/a