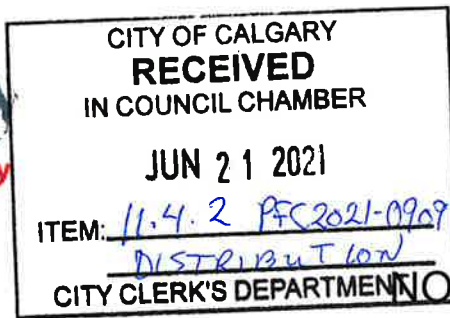




REVISED #2

Report Number: PFC2021-0909

Meeting: Priorities & Finance Committee

Meeting Date: 2021 June 08

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Strategic Investment in Calgary's Parks, Playfields and Open Spaces

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Jeff Davison, Ward Sutherland, Diane Colley-Urquhart

WHEREAS the COVID-19 global pandemic has led to unprecedented use, enjoyment and appreciation of Calgary's parks and open space system;

AND WHEREAS a healthy and vibrant parks system contributes to the health and well-being of citizens, the economy, and the environment and plays a vital role in the strengthening of our communities and the economic recovery of Calgary;

AND WHEREAS, unlike other forms of regional infrastructure, there is no reliable capital funding source for parks, playfields and open spaces and there remains areas of Calgary where open space deficiencies exist and open space investment is vital to support Calgary's inner-city communities, downtown core and growth corridors.

AND WHEREAS funding in the amount of approximately \$1M has been allocated through COFLEX for initial playfield repairs and enhancements during 2021 to support COVID-driven upgrade opportunities and;

AND WHEREAS an analysis of timing and class 5 estimates for specific improvements that would support further enhancements to playfields beyond 2021 (including field upgrades requested by user groups, fences and backstops, irrigation and fields repair, irrigation systems upgrades for sport fields, lighting, velodrome ramp and spectator area resurfacing, replacement fixtures and seating, further general playfields improvements, and a project management resource to support the work) demonstrates capital budget needs of \$6.2M for 2022 and \$1.9M for 2023;

AND WHEREAS these investments will support Calgary Recreation's commitment to developing and enhancing Recreation infrastructure to support the delivery of enhanced recreation and sport services as identified in the Sport for Life Policy CPS2018-0358;

AND WHEREAS, these improvements will contribute to maintaining a high-quality open space system by protecting the value and quality of our assets, a key priority of the Council-approved Open Space Plan;

AND WHEREAS since 2003, Council has directed a portion of the ENMAX dividend into the ENMAX Legacy Parks Capital Program;

AND WHEREAS the ENMAX dividend contributions to the Legacy Parks Fund were once approximately \$15 million per year, but have been realized at a reduced rate since 2011;

AND WHEREAS because of City Council's leadership through the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program, the citizens of Calgary have benefitted through the purchase of land for new parks (e.g. Haskayne Park, Ralph Klein Park) as well as the preservation and upgrading of existing parks and public green spaces (e.g. Memorial Drive Landscape of Memory, Nose Hill Park, Central Memorial Park, Reader Rock Garden, Prairie Winds Park, Century Gardens);

AND WHEREAS, there is an ongoing need to invest in parks for the benefit of Calgary's future and Calgary Parks has identified a city-wide capital project funding deficit totaling \$180 million over the next 5 years and an additional \$240 million over the following 5-20 years;

AND WHEREAS the ENMAX Dividend Stabilization Reserve has been established as a contingency to the ENMAX dividend and reached \$18 million in 2020;

AND WHEREAS, surplus ENMAX dividend payments for up to \$75 million over approximately 5 years were approved by Council in 2012 (NM2012-05) to be directed to the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program and due to the reduced ENMAX dividend, only \$35 million has been directed to date;

AND WHEREAS, to ensure parks are resilient following increased usage during the pandemic, there is an immediate need of \$500,000 in one-time support for Calgary Parks to undertake proactive city-wide park horticulture rehabilitation including strategic watering, targeted turf and shrub bed maintenance, increased garbage pick-up, and other measures reflecting increased patterns of park use in 2021;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the continuation of the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program from 2021-2025 as follows:

- A. The ENMAX Dividend Stabilization reserve be capped at \$18 million;
- B. If any year where the reserve is at \$18 million, 100% of ENMAX dividends over \$47 million shall be directed to Parks capital, including the ENMAX Legacy Parks Program 499 and Parks maintenance and upgrading, with projects to be recommended to Council by the Legacy Parks Steering Committee;
- C. In any year where the ENMAX dividend stabilization reserve falls below \$18 million, 50% of any ENMAX dividend over \$47 million shall go to the reserve until the \$18 million target is reached, with the remainder allocated as per (B) above; and
- D. That all relevant terms of reference be updated to reflect the above.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to re-establish the Legacy Parks Steering Committee at the November 2021 Organizational meeting of Council in order to provide oversight on the Legacy Parks Program;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that \$500,000 in one-time FSR funding be allocated to Calgary Parks to ensure immediate efforts can be undertaken towards a safe, clean and resilient parks and open space system.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED Bring forward capital budget increases in the amount of up to \$6.2M for 2022 and up to \$1.9M for 2023 through the November 2021 budget adjustments that will enable the implementation of a series of playfield improvements to support their post-COVID use; and

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration bring forward a proposal outlining the costs for a 2022 parks and open spaces pandemic recovery program that may include sportsfield, turf and trails repair, shrub bed and park clean-up, staff resources, beautification work, etc. for consideration as part of the 2022 budget adjustment process, optimizing funding sources for those budget amounts through a detailed analysis of eligibility for various sources to include grants, MSI, and other City funding sources.