

BRIEFING

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Item # 11.1

Community Services Briefing to

Executive Committee
2022 January 25

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
EC2022-0126

Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society Project Update

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

As directed by Council in response to the Council Community Fund request (PFC2021-1236) that was not approved in 2021 September, Administration met to determine options for Symons Valley Leisure and Amenities Society's (the Society) proposal for Symons Valley Park.

The Area Structure Plan, Outline Plan, Subdivision and Landscape Construction drawings all confirm that the western portion of this site is meant to be a community association site. The appropriate approvals all the way down to the approved construction drawings were received between 2008 and 2014.

When community association sites like this one are developed by an area developer they are constructed to a particular standard of grade, loam and seed, sometimes with fencing adjacent to lanes (post and cable). This provides a 'blank canvas' for the community association, when it establishes, to program and, if desired, develop the site based on that community's unique needs and preferences. Parks infrastructure investment does not typically fund community-driven projects on these sites as they are beyond the scope of what Parks equitably delivers to residents across the city.

The typical process for community-driven projects like this is for the community group to develop project plans and to secure funding. Once it has been determined that a community group has a viable plan and partial funding in place to support it, further exploration of funding options is pursued including City funding options.

The most appropriate next step for this site is to have the Society manage the lands under a License of Occupation. The Society has indicated that they would be willing to enter into a License of Occupation agreement with The City to help them with their fundraising initiatives and access funding from other levels of government such as the Province's Community Facility Enhancement Program. Administration has initiated the development of a License of Occupation agreement.

The Society was asked to review their phasing strategy and investigate different phasing options. They plan to retain an architect to prepare a more detailed design with an accurate cost estimate. Administration has suggested that the proposed rink become a priority in the first phase and suggested the Society work with the Calgary Parks Foundation to see if the Foundation can provide support for this project.

It should be noted this was not a part of the Budget Adjustment process as directed by Council as the decision was that no funding be provided for the proposed project at this time. Administration will continue to support the Society as they move forward with investigating funding sources and further develop their project scope.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Direction to Administration was as follows:

That with respect to Report PFC2021-1236, the following be approved: That the Priorities and Finance Committee refer to Administration, including the overall scope and land questions, to evaluate this project and determine options for funding sources returning to council as part of the budget deliberations in November 2021.

ATTACHMENT

1. City Planning Documents