

Council Community Fund Application - Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Executive Committee recommend that Council:

1. Consider this application for the Council Community Fund for the Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association Outdoor Activity Hub project (Phase 2) as a one-time funding request in the amount of \$250,000;
2. Direct the Councillor and the applicant to report back to the Executive Committee within 12 months of project completion;
3. Direct that Attachment 8 remain confidential pursuant to Section 17 (Disclosure harmful to personal privacy) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, not to be released; and
4. Direct that this Report be forwarded to the 2022 July 26 Combined Meeting of Council.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association is applying to the Council Community Fund for Phase 2 of their Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association Outdoor Activity Hub Project. This application is sponsored by Councillor Pootmans.
- The funding request for \$250,000 is to support Phase 2 of the Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association Outdoor Activity Hub Project located at Coach Hill Fields (6852 Coach Hill Road SW). This request is in alignment with the terms of reference for the Council Community Fund (Attachment 2).
- The proposed Council Community Fund application (Attachment 3) supports the Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association to build a multi-use, multi-season Outdoor Activity Hub that will be free to all visitors.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** The Outdoor Activity Hub provides a central neighbourhood gathering space. The project will allow Calgarians to build neighbour connections and participate in recreational living activities.
- **Why does it matter?** The Outdoor Activity Hub project will create a new public-use, accessible space for the communities of Coach Hill and Patterson Heights, as well as the neighbouring communities of West Springs and Cougar Ridge. The communities of Coach Hill and Patterson Heights currently have no community centre or facility and lack a centralized gathering space for residents. With no City-run recreational facilities north of Bow Trail, investment in the Outdoor Activity Hub provides an accessible, outdoor recreation and gathering space to help fill this gap.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

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DISCUSSION

Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association has been planning the Outdoor Activity Hub for 5 years. They are asking for \$250,000 from the Council Community Fund to support the completion of Phase 2 of the project and galvanize grant opportunities from the private sector and other orders of government (Attachment 4).

This multi-use, multi-season site is comprised of accessible spaces that will increase programming and services throughout the area. The Outdoor Activity Hub will feature a hard surface, multi-season sports court and will support physical activity through no-cost/low-cost programming, fitness classes and open sport offerings (e.g., Zumba in the Park, Learn to Skate, basketball, hockey, skating). The space can be used for CA-initiated events, including Stampede Breakfast, Neighbour Day, Farmer's Market and Artist Pop Up Showcases. The space can also be available as a partnership for City-led programming, such as The City of Calgary Farm Stand Program, Stay 'N Play and Park 'N Play.

It will also contain a gathering place with an outdoor fire pit, tables and seating area. A community garden (Phase 1) is underway and slated to be completed by September 2022. A natural playground will be considered as part of Phase 3 of the project. All elements of the Outdoor Activity Hub will be connected via accessible pathways. See final drawing submission in Attachment 5. The Community Association worked with The City of Calgary in submitting a Request for Land application in 2021 and a License of Occupation agreement was executed for the site in April 2022.

In addition to the development of this project, the community association continues to offer annual community events and programs through strong volunteer management and community leadership. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association has seen a rise in community memberships. The completion of this project, with The City of Calgary Council Community Fund support, will provide a space to further foster a sense of community belonging while creating future opportunities for programs and services to meet the needs of all residents within Coach Hill, Patterson Heights and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Based on its work with the Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association since the conception of the Outdoor Activity Hub project in 2017, the Ward 6 Office is confident in the community's ability to deliver this project. The project subcommittee is comprised of highly competent, skilled individuals with strong leadership abilities and a proven record of delivering events, programs and services in a financially viable fashion.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)

- ☒ Public Engagement was undertaken
- ☐ Public Communication or Engagement was not required

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- ☒ Public/Stakeholders were informed
- ☒ Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

The Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association has worked diligently to research the community's needs and interests for this project. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a plan for virtual community engagement was developed by the Community Association and the Engage Resource Unit. "Your Community, Your Voice" engagement postcards were delivered to every home in Coach Hill and Patterson Heights to promote engagement opportunities. In partnership with other community associations, Coach Hill / Patterson Heights Community Association encouraged residents in neighbouring communities to provide feedback on the proposed project, recognizing the Outdoor Activity Hub space can be a benefit to all Calgarians.

Held in January and February 2021, Round I of community engagement asked residents to indicate their interest in the project and provide feedback on which assets, programs and activities were most important (Attachment 6). These responses were used to develop a conceptual design, with support through a successful Stella Conceptual Design Grant application at Parks Foundation Calgary. The Outdoor Activity Hub project has also been approved for the Project Support Program through Parks Foundation Calgary. Round II, in April 2021, elicited feedback on the design and potential usage of the space (Attachment 7). A site line survey was also conducted with the homes neighbouring which was met with support from residents (Attachment 8). The final design was developed based on all feedback.

Through two rounds of engagement, feedback was provided by residents in Coach Hill, Patterson Heights, Cougar Ridge, West Springs, Aspen Woods and Strathcona Park. Based on community engagement results and a strong relationship with Coach Hill / Patterson Heights Community Association, the West Springs / Cougar Ridge Community Association provided a donation of support towards the project.

This project will help address a long-desired interest in these communities for an active gathering space available throughout the year. The community association website and social media accounts have been used to keep the community informed and engaged throughout the project.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

The Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association believes this project will further support healthy activities, increase community connections and improve the overall quality of life in Calgary. Additional space for programs and services will attract not only Coach Hill and Patterson Heights residents, but also residents from surrounding communities.

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Environmental

The Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association is conscious of the environmental impact of the Outdoor Activity Hub project. Existing city trees will be retained and protected. During the construction phase the contractor and community association will ensure access to the site is in compliance with the Tree Protection Bylaw (23M2002). All landscape rehabilitation will adhere to the Calgary Parks "Development Guidelines and Standard Specification – Landscape Construction" document.

Calgary Parks has provided a letter of support for the Outdoor Activity Hub project (Attachment 9). The Community Association will continue to ensure open communication with Calgary Parks and Urban Forestry throughout the process. The development permit for the project has been reviewed by applicable City of Calgary departments and approved.

Economic

An Outdoor Activity Hub will attract and support local community businesses through future partnership and sponsorship opportunities with events and programs, contributing to economic stability and community pride. Community resident support of the project has led, and will continue to lead to increased membership revenue, which will support the financial sustainability of the Community Association. While the Community Association will ensure programs and events are no-cost / low cost, residents have expressed support towards the project and recognize the on-going maintenance and upkeep of the area through their continued increase in buying community memberships. The community memberships help ensure all programs, events and services provided by the Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association can remain accessible and affordable to all residents. Through a strong annual membership campaign, including door knocking in both communities from Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association volunteers, membership households have steadily increased since the initial proposal of this project in 2018.

The Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association recognizes there will be annual maintenance expenses associated with the space. They have already begun forecasting those anticipated costs into their annual budget deliberations. As the space is under a License of Occupation with The City of Calgary, lifecycle work attributed to the space will also be eligible for Capital Conservation Grant (CCG) funding. The Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association will remain active in pursuing all available grant opportunities, when needed, to ensure financial due diligence on maintaining the Outdoor Activity Hub.

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Service and Financial Implications

Other:

\$250,000

The Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association has applied for project support grant funding through the provincial government as well as private sector grant applications. Approval of the Council Community Fund application would demonstrate the project has the support from The City of Calgary, making other funding opportunities more accessible. The \$250,000 will help enable the completion of Phase 2 components including the multi-seasonal sports pad and community gathering space. The current balance of the Council Community Fund is approximately \$285,000.

RISK

Should this application be approved, the Council Community Fund will be left with an approximate balance of \$35,000. Fund replacement is being considered as part of the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets. If this application is unsuccessful, Coach Hill/Patterson Heights Community Association will have insufficient funds to match other government and private granting opportunities. If the project is delayed due to lack of funding, timelines would be revised, costs could rise and the gap in accessible public spaces for these communities would remain.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Background, Previous Council Direction
2. Council Community Fund Terms of Reference
3. Council Community Fund Application
4. CHPH Outdoor Activity Hub Budget
5. CHPH Outdoor Activity Hub Drawing Submission
6. Community Engagement Results Round I
7. Community Engagement Results Round II
8. Site Line Survey Results
9. Calgary Parks Letter of Support
10. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Carla Male	CFOD	Consult
Katie Black	CS	Approve