

Community Services Report to
Executive Committee
2024 February 13

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
EC2024-0013

Council Community Fund Application – Sandstone MacEwan Community Association

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request approval of the Council Community Fund application from the Sandstone MacEwan Community Association for the redevelopment of the outdoor rink in their community.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

On 2019 April 29, Council approved updates to the Council Innovation Fund Terms of Reference and introduced a new fund dedicated to community-driven projects called the Council Community Fund. The proposal for funding must demonstrate credibility, fiscal responsibility and good management which will be important considerations in the evaluation of applications.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Executive Committee recommend that Council:

1. Approve the Council Community Fund application for the Sandstone MacEwan Community Association's Outdoor Rink Redevelopment Project as a one-time funding request in the amount of \$300,000; and
2. Direct Administration to report back to the Executive Committee within 12 months of project completion.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2024 FEBRUARY 13:

That Council:

1. Approve the Council Community Fund application for the Sandstone MacEwan Community Association's Outdoor Rink Redevelopment Project as a one-time funding request in the amount of \$300,000; and
2. Direct Administration to report back to the Executive Committee within 12 months of project completion.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

General Manager Katie Black concurs with the content of this report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Sandstone MacEwan Community Association (SMCA) is applying for \$300,000 from the Council Community Fund for their Outdoor Rink Redevelopment Project (the Project) to update the current amenity that is at end of life.
- This application is sponsored by Councillor Mian and it aligns with the Terms of Reference for the Council Community Fund.
- The Project will create an updated, multi-use, free space for the residents of Sandstone Valley and MacEwan Glen, as well as neighbouring communities.

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- The current SMCA outdoor boarded rink is one of only two in Ward 3.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

The SMCA has been planning the Project since 2021. Their Council Community Fund application in Attachment 2 is requesting \$300,000 with the remaining funding being raised from the private sector and grants from the provincial government as shown in the application's supporting document Financial Overview section in Attachment 3.

The current multi-use space has provided residents of Sandstone MacEwan, as well as residents from surrounding communities, a place for sports such as basketball, soccer, lacrosse, skating, and hockey and for community-initiated events including temporary skate parks and the annual community clean-up.

The Building Condition Assessment, completed in 2022 and included in Attachment 3, noted the current amenity is in disrepair and is at the end of its expected useful life. The SMCA has completed minor repairs to keep the outdoor rink operating at a safe level, but it has been determined that the 2023-24 winter season will be the last period where such repairs can be done and an entire rebuild is the only option to keep the outdoor rink in operation. In the past two years, the SMCA has completed multiple grant applications and fundraising initiatives in the community in an attempt to fund the Project. In 2023 May, the Project went to tender, with support of The City of Calgary's Engineering Consulting Program, and bids returned were much higher than the original expected amount. The SMCA does not currently have all the funds to cover the cost of the Project and a decision was made in 2023 August to delay the project one more year to continue to fundraise.

Based on continued efforts over the years, there is confidence in the work of the SMCA to deliver the Project, not only during construction, but in long-term sustainability of the amenity. The Project subcommittee is comprised of highly competent, skilled, fiscally responsible volunteers with proven leadership abilities.

The Project will promote the physical, social, and mental well-being of the entire community.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

A sub-committee of the SMCA was formed in 2019 to oversee the Project. Formal public engagement was not required for the Project but regular communication with residents has been maintained through the SMCA website and social media channels to keep the community informed and engaged in the Project.

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IMPLICATIONS

Social

The Project supports the ongoing provision of healthy activities, community connections and improvement of the overall quality of life in Calgary. The amenity has been a well-used public investment, which will continue to attract residents from Sandstone Valley and MacEwan Glen, and those from neighbouring communities.

Environmental

The SMCA is conscious of the environmental impact of the Project. During construction, existing trees in the area will be retained and protected. The Project includes upgrading the drainage system for the outdoor rink which will have a positive impact on the landscape.

Economic

The construction of a new outdoor rink will allow the SMCA to host programs and events, which will attract and support local community businesses through future partnership and sponsorship opportunities 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 SMCA. This amenity has historically attracted grassroots sports groups to the outdoor rink, which in turn will provide rental revenue for the community as well.

Service and Financial Implications

Other: Council Community Fund

The SMCA has sought Project support grant funding through multiple sources, including the private sector and provincial government. Attachment 3 outlines the Project budget, including confirmed and anticipated funding sources, and the budget shortfall. The \$300,000 from the Council Community Fund will enable the completion of the Project.

RISK

If this application is unsuccessful, the SMCA will have insufficient funds to complete the Project, which may then require demolition of the existing amenity. Any further delays in procuring funding will require a revision of timelines, potential increase in costs, and would create a gap in accessible public spaces in this area as well as surrounding communities.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. SMCA Council Community Fund Application
3. SMCA Council Community Fund Application Supporting Documentation
4. Presentation

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Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Katie Black	Community Services	Approve
Carla Male	Corporate Planning and Financial Services	Consult
Doug Morgan	Operational Services	Inform

Author: Partnerships business unit

City Clerks: C. Doi / A. Degrood