

**Community Services Report to  
Executive Committee  
2024 May 14**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
EC2024-0433**

## **Council Community Fund Application – Calgary Parkland Community Association**

### **PURPOSE**

This report requests approval of the Council Community Fund application from the Calgary Parkland Community Association for the development of an outdoor gathering hub in their community.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION**

On 2019 April 29, Council introduced a new fund dedicated to community-driven projects called the Council Community Fund. Proposals 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 Calgary Parkland Community Association Outdoor Gathering Hub project as a one-time funding request in the amount of \$110,000; 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 Calgary Parkland Community Association (CPCA) is applying to the Council Community Fund for \$110,000 to support their CPCA Outdoor Gathering Hub project.
- This application is sponsored by Councillor Demong and aligns with the Council Community Fund Terms of Reference.
- The Project will create a multi-use Outdoor Gathering Hub that will be an accessible central neighbourhood gathering place and will allow Calgarians to build neighbour connections and participate in recreational living activities.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Calgary Parkland Community Association (CPCA) has been planning the Outdoor Gathering Hub since 2021. Their application to the Council Community Fund (Attachment 2) is seeking \$110,000 to support project completion. The CPCA has demonstrated their

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commitment to this project having already secured \$125,000 (more than 50 per cent of the total project cost). Detailed project information is outlined in Attachment 3.

The multi-use site will consist of accessible spaces that enhance programming and services throughout the area. Key features of the Outdoor Gathering Hub include:

- **Accessible Pathways:** Encircling the building and extending onto the site, these pathways will ensure ease of movement for all visitors.
- **Outdoor Classroom and Trellis:** A purpose-built open-air space for educational programs and community events.
- **Toboggan Hill:** An addition for winter play and to enhance winter festivities.
- **Picnic Tables and Benches:** Additions that will encourage relaxation and social interaction.
- **Year-Round Outdoor Lighting:** Installed along the building's perimeter, this lighting will create a safe and inviting atmosphere and allow for extended outdoor usage.

The Outdoor Gathering Hub will host a variety of events, including Canada Day celebrations, Winterfest parties, and other community gatherings. Additionally, it will serve as a partnership venue for City-led programs.

With financial support from the Council Community Fund, the project will create a space that fosters a sense of belonging, promotes healthy activities, strengthens community connections, and enhances the overall quality of life in Calgary. It will pave the way for future programming and services to address the diverse needs of residents in Calgary Parkland and neighbouring communities.

The Ward 14 Councillor's Office has collaborated closely with the CPCA since the inception of the Outdoor Gathering Hub concept. The demonstrated commitment and expertise of the CPCA volunteer board members instills confidence in the successful completion of the project. The project subcommittee is comprised of highly competent individuals with strong leadership abilities and a proven track record of delivering events, programs, and services in a financially sustainable manner.

### EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

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

CPCA has researched the community's needs and interests for this project through community engagement. In October 2021, the CPCA invited residents to express their preferences and provide feedback on essential assets, programs, and activities (Attachment 3). These valuable insights informed the development of a conceptual design that directly addresses a long-standing community desire for an active gathering space available year-round, recognizing the importance of designing with an engaged and inclusive approach to the design outcome. The community's response to the conceptual design has been overwhelmingly positive.

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To keep the community informed and engaged, the CPCA's website and social media accounts will provide regular project updates throughout the project's stages to completion.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Social**

The CPCA anticipates that this project will promote healthy activities, strengthen community connections, and enhance the overall quality of life in Parkland. The additional space for programs and services will not only benefit community residents but also attract individuals from neighbouring communities.

#### **Environmental**

The CPCA is acutely aware of the environmental impact associated with the Outdoor Gathering Hub project. During the construction phase, both the contractor and the community association will adhere to the Tree Protection Bylaw (23M2002) to ensure proper access to the site and the safeguarding of trees. As part of due diligence, the permitting for the project will undergo review by the relevant City of Calgary departments prior to release. Additionally, all landscape rehabilitation efforts will strictly follow the Parks & Open Spaces "Development Guidelines and Standard Specification – Landscape Construction" document.

#### **Economic**

The creation of an Outdoor Gathering Hub will attract and support local community businesses through future partnerships and sponsorship opportunities tied to events and programs.

The endorsement from community residents of the project is expected to lead to increased membership revenue, which, in turn, will bolster the financial sustainability of the CPCA and help sustain its ability to offer no or low-cost programs and services.

#### **Service and Financial Implications**

#### **Other: Council Community Fund**

The CPCA has diligently pursued project support grant funding from both the provincial government and other sources. If the Council Community Fund application receives approval, it will signify support from The City of Calgary and fulfill the project's financial needs. The current balance of the Council Community Fund is approximately \$235,000.

### **RISK**

If this application is unsuccessful, the CPCA would lack sufficient funds to proceed, and would be required to source additional government or private grants. Such a funding gap could lead to project delays, potential cost increases, and the accessibility gap in public spaces for the community and neighboring areas would remain.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. CPCA Council Community Fund Application

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**Council Community Fund Application - Calgary Parkland Community Association**

- 3. CPCA Council Community Fund Application Supporting Documentation
- 4. Presentation

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

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