



CITY OF ST. ALBERT
ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

**TITLE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ACTIVE COMMUNITIES
OUTDOOR FACILITIES PROJECT**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present a motion for which Councillor Hughes gave notice on February 16, 2021.

PROPOSED MOTION(S):

That the 21 day advance notice period for a notice of motion be waived in accordance with Section 23.8 of Procedure Bylaw 3/2018.

1. That the Mayor, on behalf of St. Albert City Council, provide a letter of support for the Active Communities Outdoor Facilities Project and confirm the City's commitment to work with Active Communities to provide assistance to progress the project.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Growth Policy Framework: Develop a robust policy framework to guide growth. Revise the Municipal Development Plan framework to provide direction to growth needs, annexation positioning, and our role in regional government.

CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN: Identify and recommend high value projects and programs to capture emergent growth opportunities.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Economic Development: Enhance business/commercial growth. St. Albert will work towards an innovative, investment-positive environment that will support and encourage the development of new, existing, and emerging sectors.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITY #4: Infrastructure Investment: Identify, build and/or enhance needed critical or strategic infrastructure and identify and implement associated optimal business and operating models and lifecycle strategies.

CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN: Identify and recommend opportunities for investment in long-term revenue generating infrastructure.

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

- SERVICE AREA - Community Granting and Support for Delivery of Services
 - SERVICE - Management of Partnerships for the Provision of Recreational Programs - *The provision of infrastructure support to community organizations to deliver recreation programs to the community.*
 - SERVICE COMPONENT - City Owned, Community Operated Facilities and Parks Partnerships

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION

None

BACKGROUND:

On February 16, 2020, Active Communities requested a letter of support from Council for their proposed Outdoor Recreation Facility Project. It is the understanding of Administration that Active Communities would be pursuing this facility on private or public land and would cover all costs to build and operate. The letter of support would be used by Active Communities to seek government grants and other sources of funding.

In the past, Administration has provided letters of support for community organizations seeking grant funding however a letter of support is provided once the project has been reviewed and vetted by Administration. A standard letter would include support for the intent of the project as a benefit to the community. It is Administration's understanding that the letter Active Communities is seeking would be to endorse the project as a community amenity as it may benefit the residents of St. Albert, however; the City would not be committing to land and or funding for this project.

Administration has met with Active Communities and has received their high-level business plan. The City has not formally reviewed in any detail or provided comment this would occur on the prioritization on the project. City departments and Staff are extremely busy navigating the numerous projects before the Council summer recess and the fall 2021 Election as well as navigating the ever-changing Provincial health orders on service delivery.

The Active Communities project would need to be prioritized within the current resource level of the City and would be held to the same process as other community projects. A typical Administration process would include:

- Review of the proposal or business plan.
- An internal Department/stakeholder review.
- Feasibility and viability review.
- Assessment of the community need and public engagement.
- Council support to move forward

Administration has shared with Active Communities that under ideal circumstances, a community project developed on City owned land may take a several years to accomplish.

Administration is recommending the Active Communities project be built on private land or be included in the Community Amenity Site engagement process to begin in November 2021 and carry through until Q2 2022. Through the Communities Amenities engagement process, the project would be assessed against the needs of all community and recreation stakeholders as well as the public to be included in the Community Amenities Phase 1 report by Q3 2022.

Report Date: March 1, 2021

Author: Diane Enger

Department: Recreation & Parks

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer: Kerry Hilts

Chief Administrative Officer: Kevin Scoble