



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: ACTIVE COMMUNITIES PROPOSAL

On September 11, 2017 Councillor MacKay provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 22/2016 that he intended to bring forward the proposed motion below.

In order for Council to debate the motion, the motion must be formally moved.

That the Mayor draft a letter of support for the Active Communities proposal.

BACKGROUND:

Active Communities Alberta presented to Council on June 12, 2017 regarding building and operating a St. Albert Sport and Wellness Campus. The presentation entitled is attached. An overview of who Active Communities Alberta is and their proposal is below.

Active Communities Alberta

- Non-profit organization
- 7-member volunteer board
- Mission: "To promote active living, community building and healthy families by establishing, administering and maintaining public, multi-use recreation facilities and delivering sport, leisure and community programming"

Active Communities Alberta has put a business case together to pursue a recreational facility in South West St. Albert that features:

- 2 indoor ice arenas
- 3 gymnasium courts
- Restaurant/lounge
- Retail food outlets
- Physio Therapy clinic
- Out of school care
- Community Group space
- Minor Hockey office/storage
- Minor Ringette office/storage
- Administration offices
- Fitness space
- Health and wellness space

Cost Estimate

Estimated total cost is \$35 million, with approximately equal contributions coming from: Active Communities, City of St. Albert, and Provincial/Federal Grants.

Active Communities has requested from St. Albert City Council to provide documented support for this project, so they may work with other levels of government to secure funding commitments.

Recommendation

The City of St. Albert has been approached by numerous organizations looking for support. These organizations include and not limited to:

- Dynamyx Gymnastics
- St. Albert Soccer Association (SASA)
- YMCA
- Food Bank

It is Administrations recommendation to look at all groups holistically to determine the best course of action for the City. By meeting with and evaluating all groups together, the City will have the opportunity to synergize, align, and collaborate operating and funding strategies.

From a legal standpoint, Council should not give assurance for a project that has not been approved. If the perception of support is provided without a project being approved, there is a risk to the City if the City does not then end up supporting the project later. The risk is reputational, but additionally, the City does not have a formalized relationship with this not-for-profit group and the City has not given this group permission to apply for funding on the City's behalf. The City has not agreed to be bound to any funding the not-for-profit group may request. From a legal perspective, a letter of support such as this from the City is appropriate when a project has been approved or when it is in the City's capital plan, not earlier.

It is Administrations recommendation to not provide documented support to Active Communities Alberta at this time.

Administration, at Council's direction, is presently engaging with recreation, sports, library, and community organizations in a holistic study, exploring potential facility partnership opportunities and service delivery models.

Report Date: November 6, 2017

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Committee/Department: Recreation & Parks

General Manager: Dale Bendfeld

City Manager: Kevin Scoble