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DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
750 – 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7V 3T3

COUNCIL REPORT

Date: July 14, 2009

File: 0160-04

From: Anne Mooi, Director of Parks and Community Services

Subject: Local Government Infrastructure Building Canada Grant Program (BCF) and Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund Grant Program (RIInC)

RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. The submission of a grant application to the Building Canada Fund – Community Component, under the Recreation category, for an artificial turf field designed for the sport of field hockey but with multi-use capability located at “A” field in Ambleside Park, be approved.
2. The submission to the Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) Fund, be approved for the following expanded list of grant application components:
 - a. Artificial Turf at “A” field in Ambleside Park (authorized by Council, April 6, 2009)
 - b. Covered walkway at West Vancouver Seniors’ Activity Centre
 - c. Playground at the Ambleside Adventure Play Child Care Centre - accessible for the public
 - d. Lighting upgrade at the West Vancouver Aquatic Centre
 - e. Sport field improvements at various locations in West Vancouver
 - f. Flagpoles at the Civic Site
 - g. Interpretive signage at the Western Civic Site

Purpose

To obtain Council concurrence and approval for the District’s grant applications to the Local Government Infrastructure Building Canada Grant Program (BCF) and Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund Grant Program (RIInC).

1.0 Background

1.1 Prior Resolutions

At the April 6, 2009 meeting of Council:

Authorization be given for the submission of an immediate application under the Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Fund for an artificial turf field designed for field hockey.

At the March 30, 2009 meeting of Council:

Council authorizes submission of the following applications under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component: the Ambleside Sewer Rehabilitation Project and the Montizambert Creek Water Treatment Project, as the municipality's first and second priorities, respectively.

1.2 History

Local Government Infrastructure Building Canada Grant Program (BCF)

The Community Component of BCF, is intended to focus on projects for communities with populations of less than one hundred thousand residents. Projects will be evaluated on the extent to which they meet environmental, economic and quality of life objectives. This funding is designed to help smaller communities address their infrastructure pressures. Under BCF, the federal government will fund up to 33 per cent of eligible costs and the provincial government will match this amount. The remaining funding must be matched by the municipality. There is no limit to the federal contribution for any project under this program. A Council resolution supporting the application is required.

Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund Grant Program (RInC)

RInC provides \$500 million nationally over two years to renew and upgrade community recreation facilities across Canada. Under RInC, the federal government will fund up to 33 per cent of eligible costs. It is still uncertain if the provincial government will provide matching funds at the time of writing this report. Should the provincial government not match federal funding we can withdraw our application. The maximum federal contribution to any one project under this program will be one million. All projects must begin and materially conclude construction before March 31, 2011. Funding is considered for projects that would not have otherwise occurred during the time or in the scale proposed without RInC funding. The person hours of employment and number of infrastructure elements improved are also important considerations. A Council resolution supporting these applications is required.

2.0 Policy

2.1 Policy

The proposed projects applied for through BCF and RInC are in line with the principles of sustainability as discussed under the existing corporate business plan (*Sustainable Future: The Three Year Corporate Business Plan, 2006-2008*).

3.0 Analysis

3.1 Discussion

The application process associated with infrastructure grant funding tends to require a significant amount of resources and supporting documentation, such as business case analysis, feasibility studies, and cost estimates.

When BCF was initially announced, applications were limited to two per municipality and Council authorized submission of the Ambleside Sewer Rehabilitation Project and the Montizambert Creek Water Treatment Project, as the municipality's first and second priorities, respectively.

In May 2009 we were advised that:

- A)** BCF would accept more than two applications. This permitted the inclusion of the Artificial Turf application.
- B)** RInC announced that it would be accepting applications and we were advised to submit as many projects as possible. In addition to the planned submission for the Artificial Turf project, a list of smaller projects was prepared and included in priority order.

To comply with a tight May 4, 2009 deadline under BCF and a June 19, 2009 deadline under RInC, applications were submitted; however submissions to both grant programs remain incomplete without a statement of endorsement by Council for the applications submitted.

The projects selected for application to RInC are taken from the current list of needed capital projects identified by the Parks and Community Services Division. Projects have been listed in order of priority and it is unknown if all or some of the projects will be considered for approval.

A) Application submitted under BCF

The following is a summary of the application submitted on May 4, 2009
Ambleside Park Artificial Turf and Field House

This project proposes the conversion of the existing gravel-surfaced (all-weather) playing field ("A" Field) into a regulation size field hockey pitch. The field will be made of artificial turf, lighted and designed for the sport of field hockey but useable by youth soccer and other sports. This project includes a practice surface and a new multi-discipline field sport field house.

The total cost of this project is 4.5 million. If successful, the District could receive up to 3 million dollars.

B) Applications submitted RInC

The following is a summary of the grant applications submitted on June 19, 2009 in order of priority:

1. Ambleside Park Artificial Turf and Fieldhouse (as above)
2. Seniors Centre Covered Walkway
This project will provide covered access between the West Vancouver Seniors' Activity Centre and the adjacent West Vancouver Community Centre. Project total - \$240,000; budget in 2009 - \$80,000
3. Playground at the Ambleside Adventure Play Child Care
This project will enhance the children's facility site making it accessible to young children and their families on evenings and weekends. Project total - \$105,000; budget in 2009 - \$35,000
4. Lighting Upgrade - West Vancouver Aquatic Centre
This project will replace the original main pool overhead lights. The expansion of the Aquatic Centre, completed in January 2004, included new lighting to all other areas of the facility. Project total - \$90,000; budget in 2009 - \$30,000
5. Sport Field Improvements
This project proposes improvements to various sport fields based on input by field sport groups and municipal staff. Project total - \$105,000; budget in 2009 - \$35,000
6. Flag Poles - Central Civic Site
This project would install five flag poles in order to fly the flags of Canada, British Columbia and West Vancouver, and two additional flags related to community events and celebrations. Project total - \$54,000; budget in 2009 - \$18,000

7. Interpretive Signage - Western Civic Site

This project would provide interpretive and connective signs to the Western Civic Site in order to link it to the Central Civic Site.

Project total - \$15,000; budget in 2009 - \$5,000

3.2 Social Implications

The benefits of recreation are strongly supported by West Vancouver residents and this is emphasized in the Official Community Plan in Section 9, "Community Recreation".

3.3 Financial Implication

Given present levels of approved municipal funding, the federal government grant programs, matched by provincial funding, would allow these projects to be enhanced and move more quickly than would otherwise be possible, thus providing greater community benefit.

BCF - The total cost of the Ambleside Park Artificial Turf and Field House project is 4.5 million. If successful, the District could receive up to 3 million dollars.

RInC - This program will fund 33 percent of any project with the remaining funds to be sourced from the municipal government, community organizations, or the private sector. It is unknown, at present, whether the provincial government will provide matching funds to the RInC Grant Program.

Author: _____



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