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Council Report

Report Date: May 22, 2018**Meeting Date:** May 29, 2018**To:** City Manager**From:** Director of Public Works Operations**Subject:** Patchett Street Park Playground Upgrade

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's direction in regards to increasing the budget for the Patchett Street Park playground construction project as identified in the 2018 Capital budget.

Summary

Within the 2018 Capital budget \$200,000 was approved to rebuild the playground at Patchett Street Park in Uplands. With the current park known as the park with the "Big Red" slide the consensus was to continue to incorporate the hill and its play value within this project. Consultation with the students at Voyageur Elementary was conducted this spring with options for hill play presented, as well as input from the students in regards to the play structures to be considered at the bottom of the hill. Currently the "Big Red" slide leads to a play structure designed for the 5 to 12 year old age group but the new construction will also include a structure for the 2 to 5 year old age group and also include an accessible swing structure. With the incorporation of the hillside, pour in place rubber safety surfacing is required to meet current safety standards which has a higher cost to install compared to other safety surfacing. Conceptual designs for this construction have now been complete with a price estimate of \$370,000. This is just an estimate at this time as this playground will be subject to the Request for Proposal process.

Recommendation

THAT Council provide staff with approval to increase the Capital budget for the Patchett Street Park playground construction project from \$200,000 to \$370,000 with the extra funding to come from the Gas Tax reserve and that an application be made to the Tire Stewardship Community Grant program to, potentially, cover some of the costs for the safety surfacing, specifically the pour in place rubber.

Strategic Objective

The City of Quesnel is continuing to be proactive with upgrades to its park and playground facilities.

If approved, increase the Capital budget from \$200,000 to \$370,000. With the extra funding to come from the Gas Tax reserve as well as an application be made to the Tire Stewardship Community Grant program to potentially cover 50% of the rubber pour in place safety surfacing needed for the hill play portion of this project. If successful this grant could amount to approximately \$25,000.



Financial Implications

To increase the current budget \$170,000 from \$200,000 to \$370,000 with the addition funds coming from the Gas Tax reserve

Background

In 2015 the City reviewed all of the City's playgrounds and implemented a program to update the playgrounds in a specific order. At that time it was decided to dramatically upgrade Lebourdais Park playground (completed in 2017), construct a brand new playground in South Quesnel (completed 2017) and upgrade Patchett Street Park as the "Big Red" slide is outdated, hard to maintain and is becoming a potential safety hazard. These three playgrounds were considered to be the City's remaining feature parks in need of upgrading and the other playgrounds identified would be smaller scale neighbourhood playground projects.

Concurrence

Director of Capital Works and Infrastructure and Director of Corporate and Financial Services

Attachments

1. Preliminary Construction Cost Estimate
2. Student engagement preferred play elements
3. Concept renderings based on student engagement

Options

1. That Council direct staff to proceed with the Patchett Street Playground Request for Proposal process with an increase in the budget from \$200,000 to \$370,000
2. That Council direct staff to explore other options