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Item No. 10.1.7
Halifax and West Community Council
June 24, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of Halifax and West Community Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation

DATE: June 15, 2015

SUBJECT: Service Dog Park

ORIGIN

February 26, 2015, motion of the Transportation Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Mason that the motion contained in the staff recommendation report dated February 17, 2015 be amended as follows:

1. that Halifax and West Community Council recommend that staff proceed with the planning process for a service dog park in Ardmore Park, Oxford street, Halifax, in accordance with the existing HRM Off Leash Parks Strategy, and
2. that a report return to Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommending amenities based on community consultation that would augment the existing park. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Part 1, Section 21, of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* – Standing, special and advisory committees; and

Part 1, Section 25, of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* – Powers and duties of Community Council.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax and West Community Council approve the location of Ardmore Park, 6424 Almon Street, Halifax, for a service dog park to replace the existing service dog park at Cogswell Street.

BACKGROUND

At the February 26, 2015, meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, staff was directed to proceed with the planning process for a service dog park in Ardmore Park in accordance with the existing HRM Off-Leash Parks Strategy. The existing service dog park located at Rainnie Drive and Cogswell Street is closing on June 22, 2015 as a result of the North Park Intersection redesign project.

DISCUSSION

Staff held a community consultation meeting on June 8, 2015, to receive input from the public regarding the proposed location of Ardmore Park for a service dog exercise area and layout of the site. The public in attendance were generally supportive of the proposed location and layout for the service dog area. Several issues were raised and addressed at the meeting that focused on:

- Restriction of use to service dogs only
- Type and height of the fence
- Maintenance of the park
- Transit service
- Parking
- Lighting
- Park hours

Also, a number of suggestions were raised regarding enhancements to the Park which would typically be considered state of good repair and would be funded within the existing budget for state of good repair projects. These suggestions included: removal of existing cement pad, landscaping, benches, and additional garbage receptacles. As these items can be funded from the existing 2015/16 operating budget, a report to the Audit and Finance Standing Committee requesting approval of additional funding, as defined in the motion, is not required.

The Service Dog Park (the Park) will be located in the former horseshoe pit area. The existing horseshoe pit is 45 feet in width and 60 feet in length. The area of the Park will be 45 feet in width and 90 feet in length. The fence will be new, black mesh at a height of 4 feet. There will be a paddock area where the dogs will transition from the outside to the Park. The paddock is 10 feet by 10 feet. There will be a main gate with swipe card access that will only allow registered service dogs, and their owners, access to the Park. Electricity to the card reader will be from a power pole on Oxford Street. There will be a service vehicle gate. One existing spruce tree will be incorporated into the Park. The lower branches of the spruce tree will be trimmed to a height of 4 feet to allow for maintenance and visibility into the park. A large existing bush near the entrance to the Park will be trimmed back or removed to allow a safe, clear entrance to the Park. There will be a crusher dust path leading from the bus stop on Oxford Street to the paddock area.

Subject to Community Council approval, the anticipated timeframe for construction of the Park is eight weeks from the time of award.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this time.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In addition to the Public Meeting held on June 8, 2015, staff consulted with the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Canadian Council of the Blind.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

Community Council can choose not to accept staff's recommendation and identify an alternative site. This is not recommended as numerous sites were reviewed and this was the only location that met the criteria of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A - Layout of the proposed site

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Margaret Soley, Manager, Parks Capital Projects, 902.490.5591

Original Signed

Report Approved by: Rob Mullane, Acting Manager, Parks, 902.490.5819



Almon Street

Oxford Street

Parking

Existing
Sport
Court

Proposed
Service
Dog
Park

Berlin Street

Appendix A

Not to Scale



SERVICE DOG PARK RELOCATION PROJECT

Ardmore Park Site - Halifax, Nova Scotia