

Parks Development Funding Program

Public engagement summary – Spring / Summer 2019

Report prepared: September 2019

Background

In 2018, Council directed staff to prepare a Parks Development Funding Program based on the Park Funding Strategy Report and the Park Development Report from 2017. The program was developed through 2019 and in June 2019, Council directed staff to engage on Model A – Full Implementation presented in that report.

Staff undertook public and stakeholder engagement from late June to early September on Model A. The results are included in this appendix.

Timeline

1. 2017: Park Development Report
2. 2018: Park Funding Strategy
3. January to May 2019: Park Funding Program Development – Four Models
4. June to September 2019: Engagement on Model A – Full Implementation
5. September 2019: Report to Council – Engagement Results and bylaw direction

Engagement Process

Staff undertook the following as part of the engagement process for this program:

June 25, 2019 – Stakeholder Meeting Canadian Home Builders Association (CHBA)
 June 25, 2019 – Stakeholder Meeting Urban Design Institute (UDI)
 June 25, 2019 – Public Open House (Royal Anne Hotel)
 June 26, 2019 – Establish a GetInvolved site on our webpage (resource site post open house)
 July 31, 2019 – Stakeholder Meeting – Review UDI Response
 August 1, 2019 – Stakeholder Meeting – Kelowna Chamber of Commerce (KCC) and Downtown Kelowna Association (DKA)
 August 16, 2019 – Stakeholder Meeting – UBC Okanagan (UBCO) and Okanagan College (Kelowna)
 August 19, 2019 – Stakeholder Meeting – Technical Review (UDI, CHBA, KCC and DKA)
 August 20, 2019 – Stakeholder Meeting – Interior Health (IH)
 August 21, 2019 – Stakeholder Meeting – Central Okanagan School District (SD 23)
 August 28, 2019 – Stakeholder Meeting – Okanagan College (Kelowna)
 September 5, 2019 – Stakeholder Meeting – Uptown Rutland Residents Association (URBA)

Public Open House – June 25, 2019

A public open house was held at the Royal Anne Hotel on June 25, 2019, to inform the public about the proposed program, answer questions and receive feedback. The format was drop in from 5 to 7pm with a formal presentation, and question and answer session provided at 5:30pm.

Approximately 40 people attended the open house. Overall, attendees were supportive of the project's objective to improve the rate at which new parks are developed. All survey respondents indicated that the

information was clear and understandable, that staff were able to answer their questions, that participating was a valuable experience, and that they had an opportunity to share their views.

Representatives from neighbourhood associations and sports organizations attended, including representatives from Central Okanagan Youth Soccer Association, Kettle Valley Neighbourhood Association, North Okanagan Labour Council, Priest Valley Vicars Rugby Football Club, Childcare Council of Central Okanagan, KLO Neighbourhood Association, Uptown Rutland Business Association, Kelowna Kinsmen, Okanagan Sun, and Urban Rec Okanagan.

Stakeholder Feedback

Written responses from stakeholders to the engagement are attached (Attachments 2 & 3). A summary of the key points of the engagement is as follows:

Canadian Home Builders Association (CHBA) - Key points of concern:

- *Concern that the Parks Development DCC will be passed on and affect affordability*
- *Note that many non-residents (e.g. tourists) use our parks as destination amenities and it would be unfair to expect the homeowner to bear the cost*
- *Recommend alternative tools, such as the Hotel Tax or Airport Levy*

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce (KCC) - Key points of concern:

- *Concern that the Parks Development DCC will be passed on and affect affordability;*
- *Insufficient time to review and respond;*
- *Rise of DCCs in recent years;*
- *Consider land dedication;*
- *Consider impact of new residents outside of Kelowna City Limits;*
- *Create a dedicated reserve from Parks Revenues;*
- *Revisit the Capital Plan;*
- *Retain a reasonable Assist Factor;*
- *Provide leadership in the need for affordable market-based housing;*

Urban Development Institute (UDI):

UDI indicated that they were pleased with:

- *The Park Development DCC would be based on new growth rather than financing the park deficit*
- *The 5% parkland dedication was not considered as part of the funding program;*

UDI requested more time to review the program and an opportunity for further discussion. A second meeting was held on July 31, 2019. UDI also requested an opportunity to evaluate the cost basis of the proposed DCC, and a technical meeting was arranged on August 19 to review the financial details of the program with staff.

Key points of concern:

- *UDI is concerned that the choice of parks reflects municipal deficiencies, and not attributable to growth*
- *UDI is concerned that the program will affect affordability*
- *UDI is in favour of a square footage basis for DCCs, throughout the Kelowna DCC program*
- *Neighbourhood parks are the only parks that are tied to a physical area*
- *Construction of linear parks should be considered for DCC credits*

- *The City should track DCCs from Core vs Non-Core Areas*
- *Questioned using existing land for new improvements*
- *Concern over combined costs to the homebuyer (e.g. Step code changes, construction increases, mortgage rules)*
- *UDI sees that broad community tools such as taxation, grants and levies are more equitable.*

Neighbourhood Associations

A summary of input from a number of neighbourhood associations is included below.

Kettle Valley Neighbourhood Association

The Kettle Valley Neighbourhood Association provided a letter of support for the funding program, noting:

- *Kettle Valley parks were built with developer support together with the City;*
- *The resulting parks in Kettle Valley are key to providing 'quality of life' in Kettle Valley; and*
- *Note that future generations will praise forward thinking decisions.*

KLO Neighbourhood Association

The KLO Neighbourhood Association noted support for the funding strategy, noting:

- *The KLO Neighbourhood Association has been waiting for Pandosy Waterfront Park; and*
- *They acknowledge their park is not the only one needing to be built in the City but would hope that this funding source would advance the completion to be earlier than 2028.*

KSAN – Kelowna South Central Association of Neighbourhoods

KSAN noted endorsement for the funding strategy, noting:

- *Concern that the 5% parkland dedication and the development DCC has not been utilized in recent years;*
- *KSAN urged council to consider including the 5% parkland dedication as well as the full implementation of the proposed funding program; and*
- *KSAN noted that their position as 'inner city' experiencing rapid development will leave their neighbourhood in jeopardy without the infrastructure of parks, trees, playgrounds, bike paths and sidewalks for a healthy environment.*

Quail Ridge Resident's Association

Quail Ridge Resident's Association support for the funding strategy, noting:

- *They encourage the tax neutral funding concept; and*
- *Note concern that the funding program (over the next 10 years) does not include park development within the Quail Ridge Neighbourhood; and*
- *Note that the Quail Ridge area needs more park space and further development of existing small parks.*

Rutland Resident's Association

The Rutland Resident's Association endorses the Park Funding Program, noting:

- *Our city is the fastest growing in BC and the fifth fastest growing metropolitan area in Canada;*
- *The provision of parks becomes more crucial in the context of this growth;*
- *Notes how Rutland Centennial Park now represents a major focal point for Rutland citizenry;*
- *Commends Council on the quality of the phases completed, but as voiced concerns on length of time for full completion.*

Community Associations

A summary of input from various community associations is included below.

Lost Creek Park Committee (LCPC)

The Lost Creek Park Committee provided a letter of support for the program, noting

- *While Lost Creek Park was built through a partnership model, the proposed program would be the best way to move forward for park development to support community development, growth and unity.*

Okanagan Xeriscape Association (OXA)

The Okanagan Xeriscape Association submitted a letter of support; noting:

- *The program will increase the developed park space in Kelowna and that having access to animated park space is a key component of healthy active living and strong vibrant communities; and*
- *By developing new parks with xeriscaping in mind, operational funds can be saved through less watering and less maintenance overall.*

Institutions

A summary of input from various community institutions is included below.

Interior Health (IH)

Interior Health provided a letter of support for the program, noting:

- *IH recognizes the importance of parks for community benefits of active living, physical and mental health, community connections, socialization and the connection with natural spaces;*
- *Health facilities are also public amenities that contribute to a healthy community, are also publicly funded; and*
- *Promote active living, health and community programs.*

Okanagan College (OC)

Okanagan College provided a letter of support for the program, noting

- *Parks provide substantial benefits for the quality of life, including active living, connection to nature, space for community and cultural activities, improving air quality and are part of a healthy city;*
- *The College facilities are public amenities that contribute as well to healthy living, physical and mental health, have spaces for community gathering and learning;*

- *The College provides active living programs and events; and*
- *OC will continue to work with the City to promote healthy living, community building and providing greenspaces.*

University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO)

UBCO submitted a letter of support; noting:

- *UBCO IH recognizes the importance of parks for community benefits of active living, physical and mental health, community connections, socialization and the connection with natural spaces;*
- *Applauds the City's commitment to creating park amenities to benefit future generations;*
- *Education facilities are publicly funded, providing a public benefit, complementing the benefits of municipal parks;*
- *UBCO similarly provides playing fields, gymnasium space, court spaces, plazas and greenspaces, partnering with community groups and sports organizations as well for the use of these amenities; and*
- *Fair and equitable funding sources available to the City include 5% dedication of parkland, Community Amenity Contributions, DCCs for market developments, Tourism Tax and other partnerships.*

Sports Organizations

A summary of input from various sports organizations is included below.

Central Okanagan Rugby Enthusiasts (CORE)

CORE noted they stand behind initiatives to provide more amenity space, underlining the need for sport field development and noted:

- *The growth of their club over the last 10 years;*
- *Rugby does not have a home base in Kelowna;*
- *Their activities are curtailed by the lack of fields and supporting amenities; and*
- *the benefits of sport for youth and the long-term health of our community*

Kelowna Ultimate Players Society

Kelowna Ultimate supports the prioritization of parks investment and sports field development, and noted:

- *The Society has grown from 2003 to 250 members playing through all seasons;*
- *They host a tournament that brought 850 athletes to the City this year;*
- *The sport builds comradery and community;*
- *Recreation helps provide healthy lifestyle choices for residents and visitors; and*
- *The lack of fields is curtailing their activities and tournament capacity.*

Okanagan College Coyotes Baseball Program

The Okanagan College Coyotes Baseball Program wrote a letter of support, noting:

- *The program is in its 12th year, growing each year;*
- *The program develops college players and Junior Coyote develops youth;*
- *They face challenges with aging and insufficient field and amenity space;*
- *Participating in an active lifestyle is crucial to community health and well-being, through working with teammates, social and community building through life.*

Okanagan Mainline Football Society (Okanagan Sun)

Okanagan Mainline Football Society supports for the park funding strategy, noting:

- *The organization includes 150 people as well as 9,000 to 10,000 fans that attend games;*
- *They are challenged with facilities that are undersized, outdated and inadequate; and*
- *Wish to see athletes of all ages thrive.*

PacificSport Okanagan

PacificSport Okanagan wrote a letter of support to improve current sport and recreation spaces, noting:

- *PacificSport has engaged over 12,000 Okanagan residents in the past year, not including an additional 4,500 who register through Central Okanagan Youth Soccer;*
- *They liase with over 65 sport organizations for sport camps, training, event support and physical literacy;*
- *Note that sport and recreation is a powerful social connector, important for health and instill character in youth; and*
- *Facilities to conduct sport and recreation is foundational to their success.*

Pickleball Kelowna Club

Pickleball Kelowna fully support the plan for parks funding, noting:

- *Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America;*
- *They have outgrown their facility capacity, which is exceeded daily;*
- *Note the role that sport has in building community and health, physically and mentally.*

Tennis BC

Tennis BC provided input, noting:

- *Tennis in Kelowna is experiencing a huge growth in participation, from three years to adults; and*
- *Tennis BC welcomes the opportunity to promote and provide an organized form of tennis at the community level, fulfil the demand for more courts, including a covered facility.*

Urban Rec Okanagan

Urban Rec Okanagan wrote to highlight the importance of parks investment and sports field development in the community, noting:

- *In 14 years of operation, they have seen very few developments to allow the recreational community room to grow;*
- *Demand increases annually, yet the biggest challenge is turning away participants due to their space constraints;*
- *Leagues allow participants to grow their network and create relationships;*
- *Investment includes healthy parents modelling an active lifestyle to their children; and*
- *The importance of physical movement for our community's health and well-being.*

Resident Feedback

Emails of support were received by the following individuals:

- *Terry Bridges*
- *Theresa Dunnigan*
- *Bob Evans*
- *Sandra Hordowick*
- *Alfons Janusas*
- *Don Knox*
- *H.P. Kuehn*
- *Maureen Lisle / Lloyd Irwin*
- *Alex Spice*
- *Ivy Thomas*
- *Darrell Uhearn*
- *Colin Wilson*

Key points noted by residents included:

- *There is less area of parks per person as the City grows;*
- *All residents should have access to parks, including along Okanagan Lake;*
- *Benefits of parks provide health, resiliency and economic vitality to the City;*
- *Park spaces are vital as the urban centres intensify with development, to ensure livability of the new growth;*
- *(the investment in parks) will keep Kelowna moving towards the goal of being the most livable mid-sized city in Canada;*
- *The need to continue to work in partnerships with non-profit groups;*
- *Concern about accelerating population as well as slow park development;*
- *Concern about overcrowding on beach parks;*
- *Gratitude for the existing parks from previous councils, individuals and service clubs;*
- *Encouragement for foresight now with major growth in progress.*