

Report to Council

Report Title:	The Commonwell LEAF – Learning and Engagement Accelerator Fund Application		
Prepared By:	Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services		
Department:	Recreation		
Date:	November 23, 2021		
Report Number:	REC2021-23	File Number:	C11REC, F11
Attachments:	The Commonwell LEAF Funding Guidelines		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number REC2021-23 – The Commonwell LEAF – Learning and Engagement Accelerator Fund Application, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services and in doing so confirms and ratifies the Application to The Commonwell LEAF – Learning and Engagement Accelerator Fund for funding support of The Market Garden Park development project.

Report:

Background:

“The Commonwell’s Learning and Engagement Accelerator Fund (L.E.A.F.) supports projects that grow capacity and resiliency in communities across Ontario. Specifically, L.E.A.F. supports programs and facilities that re-energize learning and engagement within communities. Sure, many communities throughout Ontario have been through tough times of late. The fastest way to bounce back better and stronger than ever is to invest in the local places where the community comes together. Funding upgrades or even retrofits for the places in your community where people learn, share or play is the purpose of The Commonwell L.E.A.F. grants.”

In 2021 there’s up to \$1 million in grants to distribute to qualifying community projects throughout Commonwell Country: the smaller places and wide-open spaces of eastern, central and western Ontario. To earn your community’s share of the fund, submit or support a local project that will improve the places your community gathers, learns and grows. See attached The Commonwell LEAF Funding Guidelines.

To make it simple, we’ve created four ways your community can demonstrate that support, and each time they do, your community project page grows and your submission is strengthened! 1) add a story of support, 2) Leave a comment, 3) Add an image, 4) Share on Facebook.

As such, staff proceeded with submitting a nomination before the November 15th deadline. The nomination was accepted and the project page can be viewed at <https://thecommonwell.ca/locations/the-market-garden-park-development-project/>. Notice to successful applicants is anticipated by December 10, 2021.

Analysis:

Staff proceeded with an online application requesting \$43,000 in funding support for The Market Garden Park development project for the following reasons:

- The conceptual design for The Market Garden Park development project has been approved by Council;
- The project aligns with the criteria of the grant program;
- The project is ready for construction and completion in 2022 upon securing 100% funding;
- The need to secure additional funding vs. impact to budget if the cost were to be tax-rated funded.
- The Municipality of Brockton would still be required to approve the project if funding were awarded. If successful, staff will begin planning and tendering in early 2022.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The project is proposed in the 2022 draft budget at \$239,000. Council contributed \$50,000 via the 2021 budget. Approximately \$135,281 has been secured/raised through grants/donations to date. Balance to achieved via additional grants, ongoing donations or further contribution by Council.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonya Watson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer