

Report to Council

Report Title:	Enabling Accessibility Fund Mid Size Project Stream Application		
Prepared By:	Fiona Hamilton, DLLs (Clerk)		
Department:	Recreation		
Date:	November 28, 2023		
Report Number:	Report Number REC2023-35	File Number:	C11REC
Attachments:	N/A		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number REC2023-35 – Enabling Accessibility Fund Mid-Size Project Stream Application, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) for information and further approves proceeding with a joint application to the enabling accessibility fund mid size stream with the Municipality of West Grey for improvements to the Elmwood Community Centre related to entrance and access and an elevator, conditional on the Municipality of West Grey also approving the application.

Report:

Background:

The Enabling Accessibility Fund is a granting stream offered by the Government of Canada to help remove barriers and improve access for persons living with disabilities. The Municipality of Brockton has recently been successful in a 2022 application to this fund for the second phase of the Optimist Park playground at the Walkerton Community Centre and had a Youth Accessibility Leader approved to move forward with an application for a lift at the Centennial Pool.

The mid size stream of this application is for projects between \$500,000.00 and \$3,000,000.00, with proponents require to fund 35% of the total project cost and the applications are due December 13, 2023.

In the past, the Elmwood Community Centre Board has worked to identify and improve accessibility at that facility. The Board has arranged for the Bruce County Accessibility Advisory Committee to tour the facility and make recommendations that were incorporated into the Board's capital planning (the tour occurred before Brockton's Accessibility Advisory Committee had been established). While some of these capital projects may be less costly (\$25,000 or less) there are other components that would be significantly costlier (improving the front door where the push button is located, or installing an elevator to allow access to both floors without

going outside). All of these elements combined are likely to result in a project that would meet the \$500,000.00 range.

The Elmwood Community Centre is used regularly by residents of both Brockton and West Grey for family events, celebrations, weddings and Senior’s dinners, movie nights, recreational programming, etc. The Elmwood Chamber of Commerce also hosts regular Wing Nights and Bingo Nights which are very well attended at the Centre. Over the past few years, the Elmwood Community Centre has also been used extensively by OMAFRA to host various agricultural events, such a Farmer’s Week. Council has also committed to holding at least one (1) Council meeting per year in Elmwood as well.

In short, the Elmwood Community Centre is a vibrant and central community hub that plays an important role in the social fabric for residents living in that area of Brockton. The Elmwood Community Centre Board has been working to identify accessibility barriers as a result of direct feedback from users and a need to be responsive to the community being served.

Analysis:

Municipal staff are in support of any upgrades that can be added to improve accessibility for residents. The capital plan put forward by the Elmwood Community Centre Board, that includes the potential for an elevator in this facility, and upgrades to the entrance and access to the facility would fit within the funding parameters without being such a large project as to make the 35% contribution too expensive for Brockton. As this would be a joint project with the Municipality of West Grey, each municipality would be funding 50% of the overall 35% (\$175,000).

The Municipality of Brockton has \$76,000.00 in the Accessibility Reserve Fund and some of those funds could be used towards Brockton’s share (\$87,500) if the Application was successful. The other advantage of this proposal is that joint or shared projects often have greater chances of success, which would allow Brockton to maximize the use of the contributing funds.

If approved in principle, the next step would be to have West Grey confirm approval. Brockton staff would then work jointly with West Grey staff to submit the application.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

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

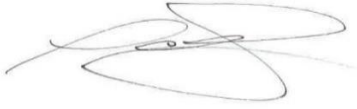
- Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

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

If Council approved applying, Brockton's share of the contributing funds would be included in the 2024 budget. The recommendation would be to apply up to \$50,000 from the Accessibility Reserve Fund towards this share, to ensure the reserve fund was not entirely depleted.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Fiona Hamilton, DLLS (Clerk)

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer