

Report to Council

Report Title: Cargill District Community Fund Request for Snow Removal

Prepared By: Mike Murphy, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation

Department: Parks and Recreation

Date: December 3, 2019

Report Number: REC2019-27

File Number: C11REC

Attachments: None

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2019-27 – Cargill District Community Fund Request for Snow Removal prepared by Mike Murphy, Acting Director of Recreation and in doing so directs staff to proceed with Option _____ to be funded from _____.

Report:

Background:

Cargill and District Community Fund (“CDCF”) Social committee hosted a meeting to see if there was a need in the community to offer a social night at the CDCF meeting room. Approximately 35 people attended this meeting and were in support of attending the social night, as well as other activities such as Pickleball, Walking club and card parties. These findings were presented at the November CDCF committee meeting and a motion was made to open the Cargill Community Centre meeting room provided that the snow was plowed on Friday evenings during the winter months.

During that CDCF meeting a member inquired as to why the facility couldn’t be open and free of snow in the parking lot year round. This member mentioned that in previous year’s snow removal had been provided by the Greenock roads department; however the service was discontinued. The roads department no longer completes snow removal for any of the municipally owned community centres. The snow removal for parking lots for other municipal facilities, such as the water treatment plant, was tendered out at a cost of \$80.00 per plus additional costs for sanding and salting.

The Cargill Community Centre has historically been closed from December 31st to approx. the second week of March. Presently there is a path cleared from the entrance to the dry hydrant with no sand or salt is applied. The construction of the new entrance way has increased opportunities for rentals throughout the whole year.

Analysis:

The CDCF committee voted in favour of opening the Cargill Community Centre meeting room on Friday nights December through March, provided snow was plowed. Lynne Davidson, Recreation/Wellness Programmer met with Schmidt’s Paving, to identify an area for snow removal to meet the needs of the Friday night group. Schmidt’s estimated that it would take approximately one (1) hour two-three times (2-3x) per week to plow the identified area at an hourly quoted rate for the municipality that is currently \$80.00 per hour as per the awarded tender. This did not include sanding or salting.

In discussions at the CDCF meeting it was felt that the entire parking lot should be plowed, (salted and sanded as required) using funds to be included in the 2020 Municipal Budget, rather than the cost being paid for through CDCF fundraising. Council should be mindful that other municipally owned community centres in Brockton which are operated by volunteers are not receiving similarly related funding for their operating costs.

However, if the facility were to remain open this year, the cost of snow removal would be compared with the revenue that was generated to determine whether the proposal was cost effective over the course of the season. It should be noted that Cargill has seen a dramatic increase in summer visitors, and increased use and programming at the Cargill Community Centre throughout the winter would assist in developing the community of Cargill as a tourist destination.

Option 1:

Contract Schmidt’s Paving for snow removal, salt and sand for the Cargill Community Centre parking lot at a cost of approximately \$6,000 dependent upon weather.

Option 2:

Continue with current snow removal to dry hydrant and leave the facility closed for the winter months.

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? N/A
- 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 costs associated with snow removal of the Cargill Community Centre parking lot could be included in the 2020 Municipal Budget if authorized by Council as per Option 1.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mike Murphy, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer