

Report to Council

Report Title: Optimist Park Accessible Playground Project Update

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Department: Parks and Recreation

Date: October 23, 2020

Report Number: REC2020-18 **File Number:** C11REC

Attachments: Walkerton & District Optimist Club Letter, Response Letter

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2020-18 – Optimist Park Accessible Playground Project Update, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

The project was initiated in February 2017 between the Walkerton and District Optimist Club and Community Improvement Committee. Discussions took place, and an application was submitted to the Spruce the Bruce Grant in February 2018 for sign associated with the playground by the Community Improvement Committee.

In 2018, Council approved a 10-year loan to Optimist Club for \$76,800.00 to bridge finance the purchase of accessible playground equipment and other park upgrades as required.

In 2018, staff applied for the Enabling Accessibility Fund-Community Accessibility Stream (small projects) and were successful in receiving \$58,724.96 for surfaces and a portion was allocated to this project.

In 2019, Road realignment and site work were approved and completed through the 2019 Municipal Budget.

The Optimist Park Accessible Playground project construction was substantially completed in the fall of 2019. Due to the construction being rushed and completed late in the building season, some works and quality of work completed were challenging and found to be deficient. At the time, the Director of Operations and the Acting Recreation Director were able to secure a commitment from the contractors to complete remedial work in 2020, at no further cost to the municipality, as the financial holdbacks were withheld until the work was completed.

The following items were found to be deficient and agreed to be remedied by the contractors:

- 1) Replacement of damaged section of rubberized play surface due to unauthorized use prior to curing of surface.



- 2) Completion of landscaping – top soil, stone picking and hydro seeding.
- 3) Repaving a section of the accessible walkway from parking spaces to playground unit – slope did not meet accessibility standard.

Due to delays associated with COVID-19 and scheduling of work by the contractors beyond the control of Staff, resulted in delays in getting the work completed and extended the work well into 2020.

The Murray Group was responsible for the landscaping and paving which completed the stone picking/top soil and hydroseeding on July 10, 2020 and the raising and repaving of the accessible walkway on Oct 20, 2020. ABC Recreation proceeded with the replacement of 50% of the rubberized play surface area on August 18, 2020. See following photos.



Council received the attached letter from the Walkerton & District Optimist Club expressing their concerns with deficiencies and delay in getting remedial work completed. Members of the CIC Committee were provided updates throughout the summer of 2020 as portions of the work were completed. Unfortunately, the delays extended beyond everyone's liking.

Analysis:

A site meeting was held on October 21, 2020 with Brian Folmer and Wayne Poechman, Co-Chairs of the Wheelchair Accessible Playground Fund Raising to go over the completed remedial work and discuss plans to complete Phase I projects (Sun shelter construction with fountain) and desire to start Phase II (accessible swing set and area lighting) in summer of 2021. The meeting concluded satisfactorily with a commitment from all parties to continue to work together to complete the vision. Further details to be forth coming with 2021 budget process. A letter has been prepared and is attached that will be sent to the Optimist Club.

Sustainability Checklist:

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

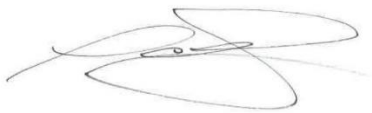
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|---|-----|
| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | 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?
N/A

The Walkerton & District Optimist Club had a very successful fund raising campaign for the project and retains funds to support completion of Phase I works and initiate Phase II.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mark Coleman

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:

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

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer