

Report to Council

Report Title: Bruce Power Funding Proposal

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Department: Parks and Recreation

Date: December 8, 2020

Report Number: REC2020-21 **File Number:** C11REC

Attachments: Funding Proposal – Skating Oval
Funding Proposal – Durham Street Park

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2020-21 – Bruce Power Funding Proposal, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services for information purposes;

And Further that Council supports the skating oval to proceed in 2020 based on funding received;

And Further that Council authorizes staff to proceed with initial project planning for the Durham Street Park based on funding received and establishing a project planning committee.

Report:

Background:

With the ongoing development of the draft 2021 operating and capital budgets, staff are actively seeking and investigating funding opportunities to help support and finance various capital and programming considerations.

With the recent call for applications, Bruce Power has created a one-time, \$50,000 event sponsorship program for organizations, municipalities and services in Bruce, Grey, and Huron counties that look to provide COVID-safe events and activities this winter. Bruce Power wants to help residents get through the long winter months by supporting outdoor events and activities that promote physical and mental health while enduring COVID-19 restrictions.

As such, the Director of Community Services, Trish Serratore - Chief Financial Officer and Sonya Watson – Chief Administrative Officer brainstormed potential new winter activities such as development of an outdoor rink, skating and/or ski trails that would fit the grant.

An application was drafted and submitted to Bruce Power to meet the November 27, 2020 deadline proposing the development of an outdoor ice-skating trail (oval) at Lobies Park and Campground that would support

physical activity and distancing outdoors. This winter activity is growing in popularity throughout Ontario with the closest such trail being Macgregor Point Provincial Park on Lake Huron. See link for other such trails in Ontario. <https://www.todocanada.ca/coolest-outdoor-skating-trails-ontario/>.

Upon Bruce Power receiving the application, representatives contacted Brockton Staff about interest in supporting this initiative as well as other possible community initiatives Brockton has that would fit with Bruce Power's **Be a Light: Beating COVID-19 Together** campaign providing \$1 million to work with public health, county and municipal governments, chambers of commerce, hospitals, local MP's and MPP's, and community organizations to redouble efforts to battle the pandemic. This will be achieved through support for public health communications, additional community protections, supporting buying local, mental and physical initiatives, and lending a helping hand by working with school breakfast programs, long-term care facilities, and community organizations. [Learn more about Be a Light](#)

Through the discussions the proposal for the future development of Durham Street Park lot into a connecting space from the Catherine Street municipal parking lot to the downtown was in turn shared with Bruce Power representatives. The pending project will support the events of local businesses and become a gathering space for programming, as well as a communal eating space. It will also provide a place for historical recognition, local art, and possibly a water feature that will connect with the Town's leadership in drinking water excellence. As an important stakeholder of the downtown and need to support respond measures to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Walkerton BIA has much interest in supporting this project and seeing its development in 2021.

Analysis:

Skating Trail – Staff propose the use of the internal campground road and trail by snow plowing and flooding into a skating trail for daytime and evening use, weather permitting. Funding support has been requested for the provision of outdoor lighting, signage, rental equipment, toilets and upgrading of the gatehouse for visitor services. The Parks and Recreation Department has the equipment and expertise to build and maintain the ice-skating trail, weather permitting.

Durham Street Park – Staff propose using the services of a landscape architect/consultant to assist Municipal Staff by way of a project committee to draft a conceptual design, conducting consultations with downtown and public stakeholders, to present final design and costing to Council, then proceeding with purchasing, awarding and organizing the construction of a "town square/green space". Funding support has been requested for the provision of outdoor meeting/event/programming space, park seating, garden and building materials, lighting, signage, utility connections and potentially permanent public fully accessible washrooms. Spruce The Bruce grant funding may also be available for a project of this nature depending on the 2021 program guidelines.

As discussions advanced with Bruce Power representatives, we are pleased to report that with the cancellation of the 2020 Block Party in Brockton and the inability to hold it in 2021 Bruce Power wanted to still show their support to the Brockton residents and businesses by working with the municipality and supporting the start of the Durham Street Park initiative.

Bruce Power has committed \$65,000 for these two projects. As such, in the efficiency of time and planning considerations, staff recommend that Council approve proceeding with the skating oval and approve proceeding with project plan development for the Durham Street Park in advance of the 2021 budget with the funding support of Bruce Power for these important community initiatives.

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

Skating Trail – \$15,000.00 requested from Bruce Power.

Durham Street Park – Upwards of \$100,000.00 for project. \$50,000.00 requested from Bruce Power, \$25,000.00 from Brockton is proposed in draft 2021 Budget and \$25,000.00 from fundraising plan.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer