

DATE: March 15, 2021

REPORT NO: REC-03-2021

SUBJECT: **Canada Healthy Communities Initiative Application – Wellandport Disc Golf Course**

CONTACT: Mike DiPaola, P.Eng., Director of Public Works & Recreation

OVERVIEW:

- On January 27, 2021, the Smithville Christian High School submitted an Expression of Interest (Refer to Appendix A) in working with the Township to develop and supply disc golf amenities.
- The Federal Government recently announced that they were accepting funding applications under the “Canada Healthy Communities Initiative” to support communities in order to adapt spaces and services to respond to immediate and ongoing needs arising from COVID-19.
- Staff felt that the disc golf proposal would fit with the application guidelines and criteria and submitted an application for this project, under the “Safe and Vibrant Public Spaces” theme, under the first round intake and meet the March 9, 2021 deadline.
- Staff is recommending that Council endorses the construction of a nine (9) hole disc golf course at the Wellandport Community Centre property, subject to the approval of Canada Healthy Communities Initiative funding application totaling \$75,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That, Report REC-03-2021, re: Canada Healthy Communities Initiative Application – Wellandport Disc Golf Course, dated March 15, 2021 be received for information; and,
2. That, Council endorses the construction of a nine (9) hole disc golf course at the Wellandport Community Centre property, subject to the approval of Canada Healthy Communities Initiative funding application.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Theme #4

- Local Attractions – Providing amenities, programs and services that bring the community together.

Theme #5

- Community Health and Safety – West Lincoln continues to be a safe community where all residents are supported to thrive throughout their lives.

BACKGROUND:

On January 27, 2021, the Smithville Christian High School submitted an Expression of Interest (Refer to Appendix A) in working with the Township to develop and supply disc golf amenities.

The attached Expression of Interest letter was included as a communication item at the February 16, 2021, Administration/Finance/Fire Committee Meeting.

At that meeting, the CAO advised that the Federal Government had recently announced that they were accepting funding applications under the “Canada Healthy Communities Initiative” to support communities in order to adapt spaces and services to respond to immediate and ongoing needs arising from COVID-19.

A motion was made and carried, at the above meeting:

- 1) That the correspondence received from the Smithville Christian High School, advising of a proposal for the school and its students to work with Township staff to develop a nine (9) hole disc golf course and to supply the nine (9) student built disc golf targets (or cages) at a cost of \$6,750 be received and supported in principle; and
- 2) That Marlene Bergsma be invited to attend and make a presentation to the Administration/Finance/Fire Committee meeting of the disc golf proposal; and
- 3) That the item be referred to staff for further discussion and considerations including grant opportunities and report back to a future Public Works/Recreation/Arena Committee meeting.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Staff have completed their review of Smithville Christian High School’s Expression of Interest as well as the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, and staff feel that the disc golf proposal at the Wellandport Community Centre Park would fit within the application criteria.

The Healthy Communities Initiative supports communities as they create and adapt public spaces, and programming and services for public spaces to respond to ongoing needs arising from COVID-19 over the next two years. This investment from the Government of Canada will fund small-scale infrastructure projects to create safer, more vibrant and inclusive communities. It encourages community-level innovation and improvements in the quality of life for residents, as local communities continue to adapt to COVID-19 in developing new ways to keep residents safe and healthy.

Eligible projects for funding under this Healthy Communities Initiative should:

- Respond to identified needs arising from impacts of COVID-19;
- Create and adapt public spaces, and programming and services for public spaces in the public interest;
- Demonstrate consideration of and connections with the community;
- Serve the general public or a community disproportionately impacted by COVID-19; and,
- Fall within the three Healthy Community Initiative theme areas.

The Healthy Communities Initiative Themes are as follows:

1. Safe and Vibrant Public Spaces
2. Improved Mobility Options
3. Digital Solutions

The minimum funding amount for projects is \$5,000 and the maximum funding amount is \$250,000 for each project. Applicants are required to submit a budget to identify eligible project expenses which must be incurred during the funding period of April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022.

The Application portal was opened on February 9, 2021, with two rounds of application intakes. Applications had to be submitted for the first round by March 9, 2021, with applicants receiving the results by April 30, 2021.

The application portal for the second round will open May 14, 2021 and applications must be submitted by June 25, 2021, with applicants receiving the results by August 13, 2021.

As mentioned previously, staff felt that the disc golf proposal would fit with the application guidelines and criteria. Staff therefore, completed and submitted an application for this project, under the “Safe and Vibrant Public Spaces” theme, under the first round intake and met the March 9, 2021 deadline.

The budget/funding request for the Township’s application was for \$75,000 as itemized in the below table:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| ➤ Design & Layout (Smithville Christian High School) | \$ 2,250 |
| ➤ Supply Disc Golf Targets (Smithville Christian High School) | \$ 4,500 |
| ➤ Disc Golf Course Signage | \$ 2,250 |
| ➤ Installation of Disc Golf Targets | \$ 9,000 |
| ➤ Tee Boxes and Way Finding Signage | \$ 9,000 |
| ➤ Installation of Trees | \$15,000 |
| ➤ Extension of Existing Gravel Parking Lot | \$20,000 |
| ➤ Administration Cost | \$ 3,000 |
| ➤ Project Contingency | <u>\$10,000</u> |
| TOTAL | \$75,000 |

Should the Township's funding application be successful, the intent would be to work collaboratively with the Christian High School to commence the development of the course layout and to source the disc golf targets. Township staff would then proceed with the procurement of the other disc golf course items and may complete some of the installation with our own staff resources. This disc golf course would be added to the Township's asset inventory.

Staff will report back to this committee once we receive the results of our application.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Disc Golf Project outlined in this report is contingent on receiving the funding of \$75,000 through the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative. The 2021 Budget as approved by Council on March 1, 2021 did not allocate any funds towards this project.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

This Report was reviewed by the Director of Finance, CAO, and the Township Clerk.

CONCLUSION:

Staff submitted a funding application in the amount of \$75,000 under the Canada Healthy Community Initiative for the construction of a nine (9) hole disc golf course at the Wellandport Community Centre property. Under this funding program, it is anticipated that all applicants will receive their respective funding decision/results by April 30, 2021.

Prepared & Submitted by:



Mike DiPaola, P.Eng
Director of Public Works
& Recreation

Approved by:



Beverly Hendry
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A – January 27, 2021, EOI Letter from Smithville Christian High School
Appendix B – Site Location Plan