



## **STAFF REPORT**

**Title:** Letter of Understanding 4 Wing - Playground

**Meeting Date:** March 26, 2019

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### **Executive Summary:**

In early March, 2019, the City received a Letter of Understanding from 4 Wing Cold Lake outlining conditions and deliverables for enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities in the vicinity of Col. JJ Parr Sports Facility. Most specifically, 4 Wing is requesting for the City to develop and maintain a playground at the Col. JJ Parr Sports Facility. This playground would be replacing the playground located at Bear and Martineau Parks.

### **Background:**

The City of Cold Lake offers a number of recreational facilities, programs and services to local user groups and the broader community. The City strives to create opportunities that enhance individual well-being, contribute to a healthy lifestyle, and offer residents of all ages to be active.

The City recently received a Letter of Understanding from 4 Wing Cold Lake outlining conditions and deliverables for enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities in the vicinity of Col. JJ Parr Sports Facility. 4 Wing's aim is to offer recreational activities for families, kids of all ages, and adults. This recent design plan by 4 Wing encompasses a playground and shade sail. The Letter of Understanding sets out the expectation for the City to construct and maintain the new playground and structures. 4 Wing, in exchange, will pay to the City one hundred and twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) plus up to a fifteen percent (15%) contingency cost (\$18,000) for costs associated with this project. Should the total cost of the project exceed projected costs, at any time, scope of work will be adjusted accordingly.

It is understood that 4 Wing is receiving funding from a third party to develop the park. It is also understood that 4 Wing is requiring the agreement to be ratified by March 31, 2019 (or this Friday).

4 Wing's Letter of Understanding is seen as being related to the decommissioning of Bear Park and Martineau Park located on 4 Wing Cold Lake. The cost to relocate the parks near the costs to develop a park as new.

The approach for the disposal of surplus goods e.g. the two (2) play structures located at Bear and Martineau Parks, are:



1. In keeping with the Purchasing of Goods and Services Policy, "The CAO (or designate) may provide authority for sale or salvage municipal assets not sold by bid or at auction."
2. Bring a report, at a later date, to Council with a recommendation for consideration

It should be noted that these park structure were recently replaced and are essentially new. Some community groups have requested for the structures of which they would remove the structures with volunteers.

In Administration's perspective, the request of 4 Wing is a shift to service levels provided to 4 Wing Cold Lake. A similar request was made a couple of years ago; 4 Wing Cold Lake requested the City take on the construction (funded by 4 Wing Cold Lake) and all maintenance and monitoring of the splash park located by the JJ Parr Sports Facility. This request was approved by City Council. This request can also be viewed as reducing two (2) parks to one (1).

#### Historical Context

Approximately, ten (10) years ago, the City of Cold Lake reviewed the opportunity to close various parks throughout the community and reviewed the opportunity to sell park space that was considered surplus. During this review, it was found that some parks in the community could be closed and developed for other purposes. It was also found that park structures on 4 Wing Cold Lake existed in greater intensity than the parks through Cold Lake North and Cold Lake South. In summary, some parks in Cold Lake North and Cold Lake South had their structures removed. However, any re-purposing of the parks/open spaces, and any removal of any park structures on 4 Wing Cold Lake were squashed by City Council.

Additionally, the City of Cold Lake has never taken over the park structures owned by the school districts located at the previous designated schools. 4 Wing Cold Lake periodically makes the request when issues with maintenance issues arise from these parks. Nor has the City ever taken over the skateboard park at the Col. JJ Parr Facility.

#### Parkettes

There are eighteen (18) parkettes within the City and 4 Wing Cold Lake encompassing approximately 3.32 hectares (ha) of land averaging 0.18 ha per parkette. Fourteen (14) parkettes currently have some type of play structures.

#### Neighbourhood Parks



There are eight (8) open spaces classified as neighbourhood parks including those on 4 Wing, providing 9.18 ha of parkland with an average of 1.15 ha per park. Features of each neighbourhood park vary; seven (7) have play structures and some assortment of other amenities including benches and picnic tables.

#### Community Parks

There are six (6) community parks in the City encompassing approximately 25.23 ha with an average size of 4.21 ha. The amenities within each community park vary; four (4) include play structures while also providing benches and picnic tables.

#### Regional Parks

The three (3) regional parks in the City have a total area of 131.79 ha. Kinosoo Beach in the north, Imperial Park central and open space surrounding Col. JJ Parr on 4 Wing are Regional Parks as they are destination open spaces; meaning that people seek out these parks because they provide attractive and unique amenities.

#### Playground Equipment

Currently there are thirty six (36) playground structures within the City including 4 Wing.

#### Inventory

An inventory and description of the open space is attached titled Appendix A, Inventory Open Spaces and Appendix B, Inventory of Active Parkland.

#### **Alternatives:**

Council may consider the following actions:

1. Authorize the City of Cold Lake to enter into a Letter of Understanding with 4 Wing Cold Lake for the construction, and maintenance of a new playground and structure located at the Col. JJ Parr Sports Facility.
2. Authorize the City of Cold Lake not to enter into a Letter of Understanding with 4 Wing Cold Lake for the construction, and maintenance of a new playground and structure located at the Col. JJ Parr Sports Facility.
3. Receive this report as information

#### **Recommended Action:**

That Council authorize the City of Cold Lake to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Wing Commander in his Non-Public Property Capacity to develop and maintain a new playground and structure located at the Colonel JJ Parr Sports Facility.

#### **Budget Implications (Yes or No):**



City of *Cold Lake*

Yes

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer