



STAFF REPORT

Title: Request for Funding - Cold Lake Bike Park and Trails Society - September 8, 2020 Delegation

Meeting Date: September 22, 2020

Executive Summary:

Cold Lake Bike Park and Trails Society representatives Mr. Don Harris and Mr. Ed Machtmes appeared as delegates at Council's September 8, 2020 regular meeting of Council.

Mr. Harris and Mr. Machtmes advised Council that the Cold Lake Bike Park and Trails Society became a registered society in the spring of this year. The Society consists of seven (7) board members including multiple executive positions with a board member who organizes a group of volunteers for regular trail maintenance and inspection, and volunteers that have stepped up to organize club rides when allowed. To date, eight hundred and ninety six (896) volunteer hours have been recorded assisting the trail builder (Hoots Inc.) with construction.

Currently, the Cold Lake Bike Park and Trails Society is running strong with seven (7) trails completed; approximately six (6) kilometers of trails. The Cold Lake Bike Park and Trails Society's plan is to complete more trails this month which will enable the Society to host two (2) events next summer being the Alberta Youth Summer Games qualifier and a Trailblazer's race which usually draws high numbers of competitors. The Cold Lake Bike Park and Trails Society are currently following the Alberta Bicycle Association Covid-19 return to play protocol.

The Cold Lake Bike Park and Trails Society are using new ways to record visitors to the park with QR scan signs being implemented, and currently with trail counters, the trails are averaging 40-60 visitors a day with much higher numbers on the weekends. It has been observed that there have been many riders coming from surrounding areas to ride the trails (i.e. Battleford, Lloydminster, Lac La Biche, Vermilion, etc.), with thirty (30) percent of riders being from out of town. There has been an overwhelming request for the park build this summer as the current trails have interested many riders from youth to seniors.



The Cold Lake Bike Park and Trails Society are proposing the building of Phase 4 of the Cold Lake Bike Park, and are seeking Council's consideration in providing some funding. Phase 4 will be an area where riders of all ages can improve their riding safely and build confidence on multiple features that will be built to spec and monitored regularly for safety concerns. Currently, there are no bike parks like this within a three hundred and fifty (350) kilometer radius, and it is strongly believed that Phase 4 will attract many more riders to the City of Cold Lake. Hoots Inc. has estimated that the Phase 4 skills park with multiple features could be completed for approximately \$750,000 - \$850,000 which is worst case scenario pricing.

Mayor Copeland thanked Mr. Harris and Mr. Machtmes for their informative presentation advising that Council would consider the Cold Lake Bike Park and Trails Society's request for funding during their 2021 budget deliberations.

Background:

Alternatives:

Recommended Action:

That Council accept the Cold Lake Bike Park and Trails Society delegation presentation made at the September 8, 2020 regular meeting of Council as information, and consider the Cold Lake Bike Park and Trails Society request for funding during the 2021 budget deliberations.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

No

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer