



## **STAFF REPORT**

**Title:** Policy No. 119-AD-10 - Public Art, Monuments and Memorials Policy Amendment

**Meeting Date:** November 23, 2021

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### **Executive Summary:**

On February 23, 2010, Policy No. 119-AD-10, being the Public Art, Monuments and Memorials Policy was passed by Council. The policy establishes the process and guidelines for the approval and management of requests from the public to place public art and memorials throughout the community.

Administration has received several inquiries and requests from the public recently to place memorial benches in the community to commemorate loved ones. Upon review of Policy No. 119-AD-10, it was determined that an overhaul of the policy was needed to reflect a more modern application process and guidelines.

An amended Policy No. 119-AD-10 – Public Art, Monuments and Memorials Policy has been attached for Council's consideration.

### **Background:**

On February 23, 2010, Policy No. 119-AD-10, being the Public Art, Monuments and Memorials Policy was passed by Council to establish the process and guidelines for the approval and management of requests from the public to place public art and memorials throughout the community, in public spaces.

As originally drafted, there were two (2) application streams:

1. Application for public art and monuments that commemorated an individual, community association, or group that has contributed significantly to the City of Cold Lake. The items anticipated were original art/statues, fountains, plazas, historical artifacts that are significant to the community, cairns, or other markers bearing historical information.
2. Donated memorials to be affixed with a plaque naming the individual in memory of whom the item was funded. The items anticipated were benches, tables, playground equipment and other urban landscape enhancements.

The consistent feature of both options, was that they would be paid for in full by the applicant, and would be placed at locations deemed appropriate by the City, with consideration to the specific location that the applicant wanted to see the item placed at.



Upon review of the policy, it was determined that an overhaul to update the language, modernizing the application process and guidelines would be useful to ensure that clear expectations were communicated to the community.

An amended Policy No. 119-AD-10 – Public Art, Monuments and Memorials Policy has been attached for Council's consideration. The amendments include:

- Clear definitions for the two streams of applications: (1) Donated Memorials, and (2) Commemorative Public Art;
- Reformatting to separate the guidelines for Donated Memorials and Commemorative Public Art into attached schedules;
- Simplification of the Donated Memorials section to cut red tape in the process to apply for memorial benches with plaques (which is the most requested memorial) while keeping flexibility in permitting other item requests to be made to Council;
- Adding clear advisory to inform the public that the maintenance, care and replacement of Donated Memorials and Commemorative Public Art is at the sole discretion of the City, including that the City does not commit to replacing or repairing the items that have been damaged, vandalized or broken over time.
- Clarifying that the City will have the sole discretion to make specific styles, sizes and designs for benches and plaques available. This is to ensure that the items placed take into consideration the overall maintenance requirements of the item and public space it is placed in, the current or future capital improvements and general esthetic of the public space.
- Clarifying that the City will install any items, not the applicant.
- Clarifying that the City shall have the sole discretion to approve the location and placement of items within the City.

This policy does not apply to Donated Memorials or Commemorative Public Art placed within a City cemetery. Memorial items placed in a City cemetery are regulated by the City of Cold Lake's Bylaw No. 677-AD-20, Cemetery Management Bylaw and Policy No. 207-AD-19, Cemetery Management Policy. Administration determined that items placed in public spaces (outside of a cemetery) should be treated separately as additional requirements and guidelines are necessary when items are being placed throughout the community in public spaces, as these spaces are used for many diverse purposes.

**Alternatives:**

Council may consider the following options:

1. Council may pass a resolution to amend Policy No. 119-AD-10, being the Public Art, Monuments and Memorials Policy, as recommended.
2. Council may defeat a resolution to amend Policy No. 119-AD-10, being the Public Art, Monuments and Memorials Policy, as recommended.



3. Council may refer to the proposed amendment to Policy No. 119-AD-10, being the Public Art, Monuments and Memorials Policy to Council's Corporate Priorities Committee for feedback and recommendation.

**Recommended Action:**

Administration recommends that Council pass a resolution to amend Policy No. 119-AD-10, being the Public Art, Monuments and Memorials Policy, as recommended.

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

No

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer