

 COBOURG	THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG	
	STAFF REPORT	
TO:	Mayor and Council	
FROM: TITLE:	Teresa Behan Acting Manager of Facilities Management	
DATE OF MEETING:	January 29, 2018	
TITLE / SUBJECT:	Proposed Floating Playground, Victoria Beach	
REPORT DATE:	January 19, 2018	File #:

1.0 STRATEGIC PLAN

Objective 1 - Developing and implementing a community waterfront district plan.

2.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Waterfront User Needs Assessment and Detailed Design, initiated in 2016 and still underway, has been perhaps the most extensive public engagement process the Town has ever undertaken. It has involved multiple public meetings, workshops, stakeholder meetings and surveys. The preliminary findings and recommendations from the consultants, thinc design, focus on enhancing access to the waterfront and recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. They also promote new revenue generating opportunities for the Town.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept this memo for information purposes.

4.0 ORIGIN

In 2016 and 2017 the Town received several unsolicited inquiries and formal proposals for establishing floating inflatable water-parks on Lake Ontario just off Victoria Beach. These types of facilities are becoming popular around the world and a similar facility was established in Barrie, Ontario in 2017 with the support of the City.

Two groups that have submitted proposals are eagerly awaiting to bid on this

business opportunity to establish a water-park in Cobourg for the spring/summer of 2018.

5.0 BACKGROUND

Based on the level of interest in establishing a floating playground in Cobourg, the Parks Department conducted research within Canada on floating playgrounds.

The following municipalities were contacted that have similar facilities: Montreal, QC, Point-Calumet, QC, Sylan Lake, Alberta, Penticton, BC, Peachland, BC and Barrie, Ontario. All places contacted raised no concerns or expressed any major problems.

Each of these municipalities have the following rules in place:

- Lifejackets (supplied by company) must be worn at all times
- No children under 5 are allowed
- Children between 5-9 are allowed with a parent
- Children under 3'6" are not allowed
- Operating hours are usually 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

The company supplying the floating playground is responsible for the lifeguards and security.

Based on this research, the Parks Department began preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the placement of a floating playground off the East Pier at Victoria Beach for the spring/summer of 2018. Copy of proposed location and a sample of the floating playground are attached.

In order to complete the RFP, negotiate a contract and install the playground in time for the spring/summer season, the RFP will need to be issued very shortly after Council consideration of this memo.

6.0 ANALYSIS

In late 2017, staff discussed the concept of a floating playground with the YMCA, which provides life-guarding services to the Town. The YMCA did not raise any major concerns but stated that they would need to coordinate with the staff and lifeguards associated with the floating playground.

The Parks Department also presented this concept to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting on January 17, 2018, and the following motion was presented and approved:

THAT the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee receive the update and

endorse the comments of staff regarding the Floating Playground Proposal.

The RFP will require adequate insurance, proof of Workers Compensation and qualified lifeguards.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACT

After the RFP closes and the bids evaluated, the Parks Department will provide Council with the financial and operational details for the successful bidder.

8.0 CONCLUSION

Based on its research, analysis and discussions with stakeholders, the Parks Department is confident that with an appropriate business model and a competent operator a floating playground would be a very exciting, enjoyable and potentially lucrative addition to Cobourg's waterfront.

Approved By:

Teresa Behan, Manager of Parks
Dean Hustwick, Director of Parks, Recreation,
Culture & Tourism
Stephen Peacock

Department:

Parks
Parks
CAO