

Parks and Greenspace Committee – Brendan O’Kelly

Springhurst Park

There are a number of much-anticipated projects slated to go forward in the new year, including a beach volleyball court, a permanent ping pong table, new exercise equipment, a basketball courtside bench, as well as a replacement children’s play structure.

The play structure is ready for renewal under the city’s lifecycle replacement fund. Funds for this replacement have been tentatively confirmed in the city’s 2021 budget, for construction next spring.

As for the new recreational equipment mentioned above, the councillor has committed Cash-in-lieu of Parkland (CiLP) funds to cover the entire cost of these projects, which is estimated to be \$122,100. It was hoped that construction on these projects would begin by fall of this year, however they are now expected to go ahead alongside the replacement of the playground structure next year. This will help reduce costs overall.

The \$122,100 estimate is an increase from February 2020, where the total cost of the new recreational infrastructure was estimated at \$95,000. The reasons given for this increase are a “contingency” factor, inflation cost owing to the delay, as well as a 10% additional charge that gets added to CiLP projects over \$100,000. Clarification on these reasons is being sought from city planning staff.

We will await the release of the tender package for these projects, which is expected to go out sometime this winter.

Adopt-a-Park

The Adopt-a-Park agreement for Brantwood Park and the Rideau River Trail Park expired this year. An application to renew was sent in mid-November, which will extend the agreements for 5 years.

Under this agreement, the Parks and Greenspace Committee organizes a spring and fall parks clean-up.

Grand Allée Park

Erin O’Connor of Regional has called a meeting between members of SLOE, Parks and Greenspace, and a few other community members to discuss future plans for the Grand Allée park and the timing of construction. The meeting will take place on Dec 15, 2020.

Establishment of a Committee

I am looking to establish a formal committee that will meet roughly four times a year to discuss our community greenspaces and work towards improvements. If you are interested in taking part, please email me at brendan.w.okelly@gmail.com