



REPORT



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Jason Kabel, Manager of Community Services

DATE: November 21, 2013

RE: **Northwestern Health Unit Request – Elaine Fischer**

At the regular Community Services Executive Committee meeting on Monday, November 18, the group received a report (attached) and presentation from Elaine Fischer, Northwestern Health Unit regarding their interest to install outdoor fitness equipment in green space in Fort Frances.

In the presentation Elaine outlined that the Northwestern Health Unit has received money through a New Horizons Grant for 'Safe & Active Recreation – Outdoor Fitness Equipment'. There should be enough funding to purchase two pieces of equipment and may be an opportunity for a third piece. The equipment is designed to be easy to install, low maintenance, and easy to use for a wide range of ages. The specific in-kind requests of the Town of Fort Frances include:

1. Location and in-kind use of land to 'house' fitness equipment.

We would like to request permission from the Town to 'house' the equipment stations in a suitable location that is accessible by seniors in our community. We met with the seniors group (SALT) to discuss the project and three possible locations were identified as a 'home' for the equipment stations: 1-Nelson Street Park (1100 block), 2- Waterfront path, 3-Legion Park.

2. A plan for the capital equipment after the funding period is completed.

The Ministry has requested more information about sustainability of the equipment beyond the funding period. In order to move forward, the group would like the Town to consider providing in-kind support for on-going maintenance of the equipment. In speaking with other communities and the equipment supplier, the maintenance is very minimal. A suggested inspection list is supplied by the company.

3. Contributions from the Town re: Installation of equipment.

We are hoping the Town of Fort Frances will consider in-kind contribution of staff time and resources to install the equipment stations in the chosen/approved location. The supplier has confirmed that installation is easily done and often completed by Town staff in other communities. Concrete pads are laid and base plates are attached to sleeve anchors to secure the units.

Recommendation

The Community Services Executive Committee discussed the opportunity presented by Elaine Fischer of the Northwestern Health Unit and feels that the in-kind requests are reasonable and achievable without great expense to the Town. The committee was most in favour of supporting the Waterfront walkway as the preferred location for the outdoor fitness equipment. The installation could begin with Public Works crews by pouring 2-3 small concrete pads in selected locations along the waterfront as part of the regular concrete activity that is undertaken each year. The equipment installation could be done on the concrete slabs by the Community Services Division. The minimal on-going maintenance would be the responsibility of the Community Services Division to manage, specifically the maintenance attendant at the arena.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jason Kabel,
Manager of Community Services

Council approval of this report will endorse the in-kind contributions requested by the Northwestern Health Unit for outdoor fitness equipment in Fort Frances as follows:

- 1) To be located along the Waterfront walkway along Front Street in selected locations through consultation with the Community Services Division.
- 2) To install concrete pads at the selected locations and install equipment once pads are ready.
- 3) Have the Community Services Division responsible for the minimal on-going maintenance of the equipment.