

## Request for Decision

### Bell Park Unallocated Funds

Presented To: Community Services  
Committee

Presented: Monday, Apr 03, 2017

Report Date Tuesday, Mar 21, 2017

Type: Managers' Reports

### Resolution

WHEREAS the Finance and Administration Committee of February 21, 2012 requested further options regarding the capital budget item for Bell Park Special Events Site Development in the amount of \$300,000; and

WHEREAS the lighting infrastructure at Bell Park has been identified as a priority since 2010; and

WHEREAS Bell Park is utilized by over 1000 citizens daily in the summer and by 200-500 citizens during winter; and

WHEREAS the redevelopment of the former St. Joseph's parking lot in Bell Park will be completed in summer of 2017 and approval of this report would result in full lighting upgrades throughout the park;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approve the spending of 300,000 for the purpose of Bell Park lighting.

### Finance Implications

If approved, the capital project for Bell Park Special Events Site Development will be canceled and the funds will be reallocated to the Bell Park Lighting project.

### HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The upgrades to the lighting recommended in this report will lead to operational cost efficiencies thus promoting best practices in environmental stewardship. Furthermore, the increased lighting will enhance the Bell Park user experience and increase safety for users.

### BACKGROUND

During the 2012 capital budget process a \$300,000 recommendation for Grace Hartman Amphitheatre was

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**Health Impact Review**

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**Recommended by the Department**

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General Manager of Community  
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**Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Ed Archer  
Chief Administrative Officer  
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deferred pending further review. On February 21, 2012, a report was presented to the Finance and Administration Committee regarding a \$300,000 capital project at Bell Park for Special Events Site Development, stemming from the 2012 budget process. A copy of the original report can be found here: <https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=4&id=461>

After reviewing the report, the Finance and Administration Committee requested a report be brought back with further options, including an option looking at additional hard seating for the Grace Hartman Amphitheatre. A report was brought forward to the Community Services Committee on October 21, 2013 which, at the time, identified the cost for an additional 500 hard seats at \$1,210,000. A copy of the report can be found here: <https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=1&id=6>

The 2013 report on hard seating also indicates that a funding source was sought through the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF) in the amount of \$402,930, with the balance of \$807,000 coming from the Capital Financing Reserve Fund (Citizen and Leisure). The CIIF funding application was denied. The \$807,000 was later removed from Reserve during the 2015 budget deliberations with \$500,000 contributed to financing the solar panel project and the balance to funding the 2015 budget. The \$500,000 will be repaid to the Reserve fund from future solar panel revenue.

The \$300,000 had been identified as part of available financing for amphitheatre capital investments including a capital levy budget option of 0.3% during the 2014 budget. This capital levy option prioritized various capital improvements within the City, including upgrades to the amphitheatre but was voted down by Council.

The \$300,000 capital allocation from the 2012 budget remains unspent. This report recommends utilizing the allocation to complete lighting upgrades throughout Bell Park.

### **Current Issues and Options**

Lighting is recognized as the immediate priority for upgrades to Bell Park. With the expected completion of the redevelopment of the former St. Joseph's parking lot at Bell Park for 2017, the investment into lighting upgrades throughout the park would finalize all lighting matters and in good timing with the Amphitheatre, and parking lot upgrades.

### **Lighting**

The lighting system in Bell Park currently consists of approximately 70 light standards that were installed in two different areas. There are approximately 50 green standard lights along with approximately 20 older globe style lights; neither of which operate with LED bulbs. There is significant deterioration on some of the light standards and there is an opportunity to achieve operational cost savings by converting the system to LED. In 2010, Yallowega Bélanger Salach (YBS) had prepared a new photometric layout for lighting in Bell Park, with a brief review of lighting options and costs at the time. The report had been commissioned in anticipation of a future change over to LED lighting for the park.

The Parks Section has reviewed the 2010 plan which resulted in a recommendation for an update to the 2010 YBS which would review the current state of the existing infrastructure, wiring and bases. A formal update to the 2010 plan would determine if the existing infrastructure is sufficient, along with identifying any components that require replacement. An updated plan would also recommend new locations to expand the lighting system. It is estimated that an additional 15 light standards should be added to the park to increase lighting in key areas. The updated plan would lead to a more accurate cost estimate to proceed with a formal tender process. The City of Greater Sudbury's Energy and Facilities Engineer has been consulted on the project and would assist in identifying any incentives that might be available. Overall, this project could consume the full amount of the \$300,000 capital allocation.

### **Business Plan Review Future Enhancements – Bell Park**

YBS had also conducted a business plan review of the Grace Hartman Amphitheatre in October 2013, and the report speaks to several upgrades that would “enhance not-for-profit use of the Amphitheatre”. These upgrades would include purchasing some additional sound system equipment to reduce expenses for users regarding rental equipment. Furthermore, acoustical upgrades were recommended along with upgrades to the sound booth. The report also identified health and safety upgrades. The total cost for the upgrades identified in 2013 was \$53,000 and these figures would require review and update of the estimates.

Another area in Bell Park that requires annual attention continues to be maintenance around the trail area along with lock stone replacement. The specific area that requires upgrades to lock stone is the area near the main beach courtyard. The main buildings are scheduled to be re-painted during the 2017 season.

### **NEXT STEPS**

As identified in the report, the top priority in Bell Park is the lighting upgrades. Upon approval by the Committee, an update to the lighting plan would be undertaken and tendered for replacement of the system in 2017. Additional enhancements and maintenance will be brought back to Council for Budget consideration in 2018.