

Recommendations emphasize role of public in future park decisions

(Penticton BC – May 2, 2018) – At an upcoming meeting scheduled for June, Penticton City Council will receive the following key recommendations supported by the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Task Force that, in addition to providing improved planning and governance, better allow community members to become involved in decisions surrounding park land.

That Council support the new Park Dedication Bylaw – ensures any lease or sale of park land contained in the bylaw requires elector approval.

That Council support the Park Land Protection and Use Policy – introduces a 10 step process for considering future park land use and includes requirements for public engagement.

That Council support the new Master Plan – marks the creation of a new long-term guiding document for parks and recreation. Includes public input received through community engagement.

"I thought the Task Force did a great job challenging, debating and ultimately forming three key documents that will protect parks, better define usage and be the guiding document to parks and recreation needs, trends and opportunities into the future", said Penticton Mayor, Andrew Jakubeit. "It took longer than expected but I think the end result closes the loop on the ambiguity surrounding park uses and the process to involve the public for input and approval. The past plan for parks and recreation was from 1993, so we are in desperate need of an update. The task force was community driven and we are very thankful for their dedication, commitment and fortitude throughout the entire process."

"With endorsement from the Steering Committee, staff will now be preparing to present the proposed Parks & Recreation Master Plan, Bylaws and Policies to Council", said Director of Community Development, Anthony Haddad. "The work the community has contributed towards the plan under the guidance of the Steering Committee over the past two years has provided for a more robust decision making process when it comes to parks and recreation".

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