



## **RECREATION, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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<b>TO:</b>	Council	
<b>DATE:</b>	June 29, 2021	<b>DIVISION:</b> All
<b>FILE:</b>	N/A	<b>APPLICATION:</b> N/A
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Exploration of the Creation of a Rocky View County Recreation and Parks Foundation	

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### **POLICY DIRECTION:**

At their April 28, 2020, meeting, Council directed Administration to cease exploration for the creation of a Recreation and Parks Foundation, and to revisit its creation within six months of approval of the Rocky View County's Recreation and Parks Master Plan.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In January of this year, the Recreation Governance Committee approved the County's Recreation and Parks Master Plan (RPMP), as they recognize the value of public recreation and that it should be available to all its citizens. The RPMP is a long-term strategic planning tool to define a path forward in the delivery of recreation opportunities for residents through prioritization of community needs, allocation of funds, partnership opportunities and a planning structure for the region. One of the objectives included in the RPMP was to identify funding vehicles and opportunities. One of the funding vehicles explored was the viability of creating a Rocky View County Recreation and Parks Foundation.

### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

Administration recommends that a Recreation and Parks Foundation be deemed unattainable, and that further exploration on its development be ceased, in accordance with Option #1.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Increased expectations for recreation and park service provision and population changes over the last 40 years necessitated a thorough review of the state of recreation governance and needs in the County. As a result, the RPMP was created and approved in January of this year to help manage and define a path forward in the delivery of recreation. A deliverable within the development of the RPMP was to look for and identify options for additional funding. One of those funding options was to identify if the development of a Recreation & Parks Foundation was feasible within RVC's current structure and staffing resources.

Administration completed some research on the structure, benefits, and resources required in the development and management of a foundation for Rocky View County and determined that a number of factors would need to be considered in order to responsibly initiate such a foundation.

A Recreation and Parks Foundation would need to be an independent, registered, nonprofit organization that is at arms-length to the municipality. It would require a Board of Directors, with independent financial reporting and accountability. Based on other models, such as Calgary and Edmonton, it would require a strong, corporate, philanthropic reserve, and would take a number of years to become financially independent; meaning, there are a number of upfront costs, such as staffing, operational costs, marketing etc., for several years prior to a foundation being able to be self-funding.

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### **Administration Resources**

Dari Lang, Acting Manager, Recreation, Parks and Community Support



The RPMP identified a number of potential funding sources to help support the delivery of recreation in the County; however, a Recreation and Parks Foundation was determined to be neither feasible nor a suitable option for the County at this time.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no budget implications associated with this item.

**OPTIONS:**

Option #1                      THAT development of a Recreation and Parks Foundation be deemed unattainable, and that further exploration on it be ceased.

Option #2                      THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

“Brock Beach”

“Kent Robinson”

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Acting Executive Director  
Community Development Services

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Acting Chief Administrative Officer

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