

## LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

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**TO:** Council  
**DATE:** April 26, 2022  
**FILE:** N/A  
**SUBJECT:** Request from The Trail Owners Council

**DIVISION:** 2 & 3  
**APPLICATION:** N/A

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The County has received a request from The Trail Owners Council ('Attachment A') for senior County Administration representation on their association. The Trail Owners Council is intended to provide leadership on the proposed Trans Canada Trail section between Calgary and Cochrane (Stage One), and then onwards to Canmore (Stage Two).

### ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval in accordance with Option #1.

### DISCUSSION:

On March 11, 2022, the County received a letter from The Trail Owners Council, requesting that the County provide a senior member of Administration to join their Council. The Trail Owners Council is proposed to be comprised of senior Administration members from the Stoney Nakoda Nations, The City of Calgary and The Town of Cochrane, as well as Rocky View County. The Owners Council is also proposed to include representatives from the Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation, representation from the Steering Committee, and technical advisors from Urban Systems. The exact role of The Trail Owners Council is unclear and may be clarified during early meetings, which will involve the creation of a Terms of Reference.

The Trail Steering Committee (which is separate from the proposed Trail Owners Council) has existed for the past four years and consists of 24 members ranging from civil society groups, municipal Administration / elected officials from the Town of Cochrane, provincial officials, members of the Bearspaw First Nations, and private landowners/donors. The Trail Steering Committee has contracted Urban Systems to manage the project. The Trail Steering Committee has had success in fundraising for the project from private sources and intends to apply for federal/provincial grants.

Stage One of the proposed regional trail between Calgary and Cochrane has been advocated for by community members for the past decade. Oversight of this advocacy and fundraising initiative is currently being coordinated by the Trail Steering Committee. Parts of the proposed hiking and biking pathway system currently exist along the Bow River, and travel through Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, Haskayne Legacy Park, and lands owned by several private landowners. The proposed pathway system would be approximately 38 km long and connect the City of Calgary's Rotary/Mattamy Greenway Trail to the Town of Cochrane. In the County, the proposed pathway is largely within the Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park. This proposed pathway would require construction of a walking bridge over the Bow River and securing of additional private lands. Stage Two of the proposed pathway is proposed to connect the trail from Cochrane to the Town of Canmore, but this route is conceptual at this time.

The Trail Owners Council would provide high-level guidance to the proposed project (ie. trail standards etc.) and would require a monthly time commitment of 1.5 hours from County Administration, plus the time required to prepare for meetings. While this project may be of regional

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### Administration Resources

Ben Manshanden, Legislative and Intergovernmental Services



benefit, and participation by County Administration would help to ensure County interests are considered, Council should weigh the potential benefit against the precedent of devoting County resources to one stakeholder group. There are a number of other groups which also advocate for regional trails in the County, such as Airdrie Regional Trails, Meadowlark Trails Association, Bragg Creek Trails Association, Springbank Trails and Pathways Association, and the Trans Canada Trails Association.

Administration recommends that this request be received for information and that a senior member of Administration not be appointed to the Trail Owners Council. The County has several mechanisms for providing feedback to the proposed Trail, such as technical reviews of proposed plans, ad-hoc meetings with stakeholder groups and Intermunicipal Committee meetings with municipal neighbours. There are numerous other interest groups throughout the County, and Administration’s presence on one stakeholder group may create a perception of bias, whereas County Administration presence on each stakeholder group in the County would require significant investment of County resources. County Administration can ensure that this group is given high-level guidance on their project through existing mechanisms without assigning senior Administration resources to this project.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no budget implications at this time.

**OPTIONS:**

- Option #1 THAT the request from the Trail Owners Council be received for information.
- Option #2 THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

“Amy Zaluski”

“Byron Riemann”

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Director,  
Legislative and Intergovernmental Services

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Acting Chief Administrative Officer

BM/jb

**ATTACHMENTS:** Attachment ‘A’ – Letter from the Rotary Club of Cochrane