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Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:43 PM

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Subject: Fwd: Draft for reviewing

To all members of council

Re: Reconsideration budget for the playground at Bayview Park

This is a request for council to reconsider the budget for the Bayview Park Playground project. Unfortunately monies were not budgeted for adding a rubberized surface under the equipment. This rubberized surfacing would add to the safety of the playground and make it easier to keep the area clean. More importantly it would allow the playground to be more inclusive to **family members of all ages** with accessibility needs. **Even though the AODA permits wood chip surfaces on playgrounds in Ontario at this time, the more common practice for new playgrounds is rubberized surfaces as they allow full inclusivity, independence for all citizens, safety, cleanliness, and durability over many years. Playgrounds with wood chips require ongoing maintenance and continued expenses each year for upkeep and replenishing.**

In May the recreation department met with TBM residents to present and discuss playground options and ideas. Everyone agreed that playgrounds should be available for all children and that the rubberized surface was essential.

At this past Children's festival participants were given an opportunity to exchange ideas about playgrounds. The majority of people agreed rubberized surfacing as essential for all new playground areas.

The ideas suggested have been forwarded to the recreation department.

Playgrounds are redone approximately every 25 years in the TBM. Bayview is scheduled for 2024. Let's make sure that this feature is added for accessibility, inclusiveness, and safety. It was noted by many at the festival that parks in other municipalities have already done this. **Some consultation with our neighbouring communities would be very beneficial when considering community needs and funding opportunities.**

Pricing for this was quoted as \$140,000 at the meeting in May.

There are many grant programs to support more funding for the playground, which Town Staff could apply for, such as the Aviva Community Fund, the Rick Hansen Foundation, Canadian JumpStart, the Canada Post Community Foundation, to name a few. Budgeting to include some accessible playground equipment in the design, as well as the rubberized surface, would allow TBM to offer recreation opportunities for our youth that are appropriate for all abilities and comparable to the playgrounds in our neighbouring municipalities.

This is a time sensitive request but let's think about the children.

Thank you for your consideration.

It is hoped that council will create a motion and direct staff into forwarding costs for this park with full resurfacing and include a walkway to the play area.

Debbie Crosskill