



SUBJECT: Build It With KaBOOM! Opportunity

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Parks & Recreation Department

Report Number: PR-09-17

Wards Affected: 1

File Numbers: 930-01

Date to Committee: April 3, 2017

Date to Council: April 18, 2017

Recommendation:

Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Community Partner Playground Agreement with KaBOOM! for the construction of a playground at Bolus Park which is outlined in parks and recreation department report PR-09-17 and included as appendix A, subject to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor.

Purpose:

A Healthy and Greener City

- Healthy Lifestyles

An Engaging City

- Good Governance

Background and Discussion:

KaBOOM! is an American non-profit organization dedicated to the goal of ensuring that all children, particularly children living in poverty, get the balance of active play they need to become healthy and successful adults. KaBOOM! uses a community collaborative approach to create play places by empowering play advocates and community members.

KaBOOM! has approached the City of Burlington about being a community partner to create a play space at Bolus Park in Aldershot. There is a lot of excitement in the

Aldershot community around this opportunity. The Bolus Park playground is up for renewal shortly and meets the needs of the KaBOOM! goal of ensuring children have the opportunity to play. Further, the KaBOOM! community-led model of playground design is a process that could be adapted in future playground renewals to ensure the needs of the children are being met through a community-led approach.

Strategy/process

Project Overview

The funder that KaBOOM! is working with has specifically identified Bolus Park as the location for a build. The City is required and has completed the following:

- formed a Planning Committee of 10-15 community members,
- identified a play space that includes a 2,500 square foot playground, and
- committed to necessary site preparation.

The Planning Committee has to commit to:

- fundraising 10% of the project cost,
- mobilizing the community, and
- volunteering.

The Community Partner Playground Agreement (Appendix A) has been reviewed by Legal and KaBOOM! and the funder is waiting on the City's signed agreement to finalize the partnership.

Once KaBOOM! receives the signed agreement a KaBOOM! project manager will work with the community partner to organize a Design Day and Build Week:

- Design Day (proposed target - June): is for the kids and adults to have a chance to tell us what they would like to see on their new playground and also, rally the community to join. The day consists of a site walk discussing site preparation, a kid's portion to draw and present their dream space followed by a community meeting for 20 adults in a "town hall" type discussion around planning. From this, 3 playground designs will be proposed. The Planning Committee will then choose the preferred design and KaBOOM! will facilitate the purchase of the equipment.
- Build Week (proposed target for build day: Saturday in August): is 3 days (2 prep days and 1 build day). The prep days include receiving the materials on site and various tasks to get ready for build day. Each day requires 30 volunteers for the full day. Build day requires 200 – 250 volunteers (approx. 100 from the community and 100 from the funder). The KaBOOM! project manager, a City of Burlington representative from Open Space and the community will work together to assemble and resurrect the playground including a playground inspection by a

qualified Certified Playground Inspector. A park opening event will be planned to recognize the contributions of everyone that was involved. Post project evaluations and debrief will also be completed.

Financial Matters:

The Planning Committee will work to secure the required volunteers and must fundraise 10% of the project or \$8,500 (USD) towards the project. The funder will provide the balance of the funds. The 10% of the project cost is due 30 days prior to build day.

Bolus Park is scheduled for renewal as it is included as part of current inventory and budget is secured for any renewal or maintenance. We do not foresee any significant increase in cost for on-going maintenance beyond what is done currently with the existing structure.

Any additional build day costs will be covered through community donations (e.g. local grocery, local entertainment and tools from landscapers). It is the responsibility of the organizing committees to secure the required funds. Further, if the community were to raise more funds than the required amount, there is the opportunity to enhance with added features or upgrades which would need to be approved by staff.

Other Resource Impacts

Three staff have been identified to work on the project. The staff will assist in the park building process and community engagement. This project will be part of their current work duties; therefore, no additional expense will be incurred. The Planning Committee must be made up of at least 50% non-staff, interested residents and community members.

Public Engagement Matters:

The project's Public Relations team will develop a marketing strategy working in consultation with Corporate Communications to build excitement and awareness for the project. Upon the signing of the Community Partner Playground Agreement an official announcement will be made to the community. Under the leadership of the Planning Committee and with the support from Councillor Craven and City staff, the official announcement will launch the greater volunteer recruitment drive and community fundraising program.

Conclusion:

Engaging the community with the Build it with KaBOOM! project is a great opportunity to ensure children in that neighbourhood are getting the balance of play to become healthy and successful adults. Through the community collaborative approach, the residents can have pride and ownership in what they have accomplished and the impact they will have on their community.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Spence

Supervisor of Recreation Services

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Appendices:

- A. KaBOOM! Community Partner Playground Agreement

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.