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To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Chris Glenn - Director of Recreation, Community and Culture
Enrico Scalera - Director of Roads, Parks and Forestry
Scott Hamilton - Director of Engineering Services

Cc: Tim Commisso, Allan Magi, Marion Rabeau, Denise Beard, Steve Robinson

Date: April 13, 2022

Re: Ward 2 Leash Free Area – Central Park

The purpose of this memo is to respond to the following staff direction received on April 7, 2022 at the Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Committee Meeting;

Direct the Director of Recreation, Community and Culture in consultation with Roads, Parks and Forestry to report back at Council on April 19, 2022 on increasing the size to the maximum available footprint for the leash free that could include an area for small dogs separate from big dogs at Central Park as per appendix A in recreation community and culture department report RCC-04-22.

Staff have developed 2 options for council consideration. As identified in report RCC-04-22, option 1 has several benefits and challenges as noted below. The annual operating cost to maintain option 1 is \$8,500 for items such as fencing repairs, garbage removal, wood chipping, grass cutting/trimming and debris pickup. Refer to Appendix A for size and location.

Option 1 - Central Park at Drury Lane and New Street

Proposed Leash Free Area Size - 0.06 ha max.

Estimated Project Cost - \$100,000

Leash Free Area Classification: Neighbourhood

Benefits	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkable location within the downtown core 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exact location of fence line to be field confirmed based on location of mature trees Very busy complex Limited parking during peak times, especially when the two joint ventures are in operation High profile location Proximity to major intersection Removal of open green space

Staff have prepared option 2 based on the council direction to increase the size to the maximum available footprint and include an all dog area and a separate small dog area. Option 2 will increase the pressure of the challenges identified in option 1 and present additional challenges identified below. The annual operating cost to maintain option 2 is \$22,000 for items such as fencing repairs, garbage removal, wood chipping, grass cutting/trimming, inspections, and debris pickup. Refer to Appendix A for size and location.

Option 2 - Central Park at Drury Lane and New Street

Proposed Leash Free Area Size - 0.25 ha max.

Estimated Project Cost - \$175,000

Leash Free Area Classification: Neighbourhood

Benefits	Additional Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger area • Walkable location within the downtown core 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exact location of fence line to be field confirmed based on location of mature trees. • Long term tree health – There is a risk of long-term nitrogen toxicity as a result of excessive urination from dogs which could lead to decline in tree vigor or mortality. The installation and maintenance of a mulch layer within the root zone area of the trees will be provided as the decomposition process of mulch requires nitrogen, and the mulch will also help reduce compaction within the root zone area. • High profile location will bring a large volume of dogs to this area. The grass will deteriorate with heavy use and turn into mud which will require regular top up of wood chips. • Smell will be an issue based on use and weather conditions. • Noise will occur at all hours. • Exceeds approved capital budget \$100,000.