

BLUEBACK COMMUNITY PARKLAND ADDITION ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS RESULTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That "Electoral Area 'E' Community Parks Local Service Amendment Bylaw No. 803.07, 2021" be adopted.
2. That "Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area 'E' Parkland Acquisition Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1844, 2021" be adopted.

BACKGROUND

At the September 28, 2021 Board meeting, the Board approved the following motions:

#21-483: "That "Electoral Area 'E' Community Parks Local Service Amendment Bylaw No. 803.07, 2021" be introduced, read three times, and forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval."

#21-484: "That "Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area 'E' Parkland Acquisition Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1844, 2021" be introduced, read three times, and forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval."

#21-485: "That the Board approve the Elector Response Form as provided in Attachment 3; establish 4:00 P.M. on February 14, 2022, as the deadline for receiving elector responses for the alternative approval process, and; determine the total number of electors of the area to which the approval process applies to be 5,394."

21-486: "That that once the service is amended, the 2022 proposed budget include \$1,060,500 for the purchase of parkland in Electoral Area E.

Bylaws No. 803.07, 2021 and No. 1844, 2021 authorize the Board to increase the tax requisition for the Electoral Area E Community Park Local Service and to secure a loan for the purchase of 3427 Tye Crescent as an addition to Blueback Community Park. As required by the *Local Government Act*, the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities was received on October 17, 2021 for Bylaw No. 803.07, and on November 4, 2021 for Bylaw No. 1844 which authorized the RDN to proceed with seeking electoral approval for the bylaws.

In accordance with the *Community Charter*, the Board approved an alternative approval process (AAP) to seek electoral approval in the service area. As part of the AAP, electors opposed to the adoption of the Bylaws are required to sign an elector response form and submit it to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) prior to the established deadline of February 14, 2022.

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For the purpose of conducting the AAP, the number of electors in the service area was determined to be 5,394. Therefore, if fewer than 539 elector response forms are received prior to Monday, February 14, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., elector approval is deemed to have been obtained and the Board can proceed to adopt Bylaw No. 803.07 and Bylaw No. 1844.

There were twenty-three (23) valid elector response forms received by the February 14 deadline (see Corporate Officer's Certification - Attachment 3), therefore Bylaws No. 803.07 and Bylaw No. 1844 have received approval of the electors by the alternative approval process (AAP) and may be adopted by the Board.

To provide an opportunity for public information and participation, the RDN created a 'Get Involved' page in late November 2021 that was updated throughout the project. The 'Get Involved' page contained detailed questions and answers on the proposed parkland acquisition and bylaws, copies of all related background documents, a copy of the Elector Response Form, and full details on how to participate in the AAP. The 'Get Involved' page for the Blueback Community Park Property Addition - Alternative Approval Process was visited thirty-nine (39) times with thirty (30) site visitors classified as Aware, fifteen (15) as Informed, and two (2) as Engaged based on their interactions with the site. The RDN also notified members of the Electoral Area E Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee by email, posted details on the AAP to Facebook and Twitter, provided detailed notices in local print media, and responded to public and media questions on both the project and the AAP.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The price to purchase this property is \$1,060,500. The amount of \$130,000 from EA E Cash-In-Lieu Reserve account is available to be used towards this purchase. If the balance of \$930,500 was borrowed over a 20-year term, the annual payments would be \$65,267, assuming a 3% interest rate. The average home will see an approximate increase in tax requisition of \$18.56 /year under this option. It is recommended the purchase amount be borrowed over a 20-year period for this acquisition.

The cost of demolishing the 800 sq ft 1964 cottage, removing various dead trees and restoring the site is estimated in the range of \$25,000 to \$50,000 depending on if any hazardous materials are present in the building (Asbestos Containing Materials and Lead). An amount of \$30,000 is included in the proposed Electoral Area E Community Parks 5-year Financial Plan - 2022-2026.

If acquired, the cost to maintain this property is estimated at \$1,000 per year. This annual amount would cover the cost of managing and maintaining the vegetation on site and other amenities.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Environmental Stewardship - Protect and enhance the natural environment, including land, water, and air quality for future generations.

REVIEWED BY:

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Electoral Area 'E' Community Parks Local Service Amendment Bylaw No. 803.07, 2021
2. Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area 'E' Parkland Acquisition Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1844, 2021
3. Corporate Officer's Certification