

Report from Financial Management Services, Director

Date of Report: October 24, 2019

Date of Meeting: October 28, 2019

Report Number: FMS-B041-2019

File: 68.31.99

Subject: Labyrinth Project – Referral to Budget Standing Committee

Recommendation

That report FMS-B041-2019, regarding Labyrinth Project - Referral to Budget Standing Committee, be received for information.

Report

At its meeting of October 21, 2019, Council received a delegation about a Labyrinth Project and referred Report CRCS-213-2019, regarding the Labyrinth Project, to the Budget Standing Committee for consideration. Report CRCS-213-2019 is attached as Appendix 1.

Prepared by:

Kyra Nicholson
Council and Committee Coordinator

Submitted and Approved by:

Kristine Douglas
Director of Financial Management Services / City Treasurer

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Report CRCS-213-2019



Corporate Report City Council

Report from: Community, Recreation and Culture Services, Business Planning and Strategic Services

Report Date: September 30, 2019

Meeting Date: October 21, 2019

Report Number: CRCS-213-2019

File: 68.31.99

Subject: Labyrinth Project

Strategic Pillar:



Recommendation

That Council receive Report CRCS-213-2019, regarding Labyrinth Project, for information purposes. FORTHWITH

Summary

Labyrinths (sometimes referred to as healing gardens) are walking paths designed for meditation, mindfulness and personal reflection. Labyrinths can be utilized by persons of all abilities, as participating in a labyrinth can benefit body, mind and spirit, reduce stress and provide gentle exercise. A labyrinth can also play a vital role in treating mental health conditions and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Currently, there are over 5,300 labyrinths in more than 80 countries around the world. The Ontario Labyrinth Directory lists approximately 200 labyrinths. Some of these labyrinths have been situated in locations such as public parks, health care facilities, retreats, schools (universities and colleges), churches, prisons and many other public and private settings. Labyrinths are currently located at Brock University, Pathstone Mental Health, St. George's Anglican Church and St. Giles Presbyterian Church.

Background

At its meeting on September 23, 2019, Council approved the following report request from Councillor Dodge:

“That staff be directed to prepare a report regarding the construction costs, scheduling of the project, legal agreements and the Jaycee Park location for a labyrinth, that follows the Niagara-on-the-Lake model; and

That this report be brought to Council for their consideration as soon as possible.”

Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake Labyrinth

Opened in September 2017, the Labyrinth is located behind the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library near the garden area. It is 68 feet in diameter and is meant to bring the community together and enhance well-being. The approximate cost of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Labyrinth was \$30,000 (in 2017).

Aerial View of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Labyrinth



Conceptual Labyrinth Design and Estimated Construction Costs

The conceptual Labyrinth design that follows the Niagara-on-the-Lake model has an estimated construction cost of \$35,000 and would include the following amenities:

- Grass walkway with brick border
- Green space improvements including drainage and grading
- Adjustments to current irrigation system
- Park benches with concrete pads

The estimated construction cost of \$35,000 considers the inflationary increases from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Labyrinth, which was opened in 2017. All construction costs related to conceptual Labyrinth designs should be considered variable as the designs are scalable.

The City would be the project and construction lead on any potential Labyrinth projects at Ontario Jaycee Gardens Park and therefore no formal legal agreements would be required with parties outside the City's official procurement process.

Project Schedule

This project is not part of the current CRCS work plan and is not part of the 2020 operating or capital budgets. Should Council decide to allocate funds to this project, staff can allocate the necessary resources required for this project.

Ontario Jaycee Gardens Park

Ontario Jaycee Gardens Park provides visitors with enjoyable walking opportunities, open space, horticultural displays and passive recreation. The park offers beautiful views of Martindale Pond, which can be found at the west end of the park. On-site parking, access to a bus route and close proximity to the pedestrian bridge to Port Dalhousie provide a welcoming experience for visitors. Given the current park design and use, staff recommend Ontario Jaycee Gardens Park as a potential location for a Labyrinth, with the conceptual location attached as Appendix 1.

Accessibility & Inclusivity of Labyrinth

Accessibility and inclusiveness of all park assets are recommendations of the Recreation Facility and Programming Master plan:

“Recommendation #37. Continue to enhance the design and redesign of parks and trails through strategic improvements focused on accessibility for persons with disabilities and special needs, user comfort, safety, wayfinding and interpretative signage, at a minimum.”

With that, staff recommend that the Labyrinth Project be shared with the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee for comment.

Labyrinth Community Network

The Labyrinth Community Network (LCN) is a group of volunteers who value the experience of walking or tracing a labyrinth. The LCN provides a directory of all Ontario labyrinths and is a major resource for the labyrinth community. If staff are directed to move forward with a Labyrinth project, staff would also pursue membership into the LCN at an estimated annual cost of \$25. The LCN membership would be beneficial as it would include the City in the LCN directory as well connect the City with the LCN community.

Financial Implications

Subject to Council's direction, the conceptual Labyrinth design that follows the Niagara-on-the-Lake model has an estimated construction cost of \$35,000. Currently, there are no budgeted funds to be directed towards a Labyrinth project.

The estimated construction cost of \$35,000 considers the inflationary increases from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Labyrinth, which was opened in 2017. All construction costs related to conceptual Labyrinth designs should be considered variable as the designs are scalable.

As approved by Council on October 7, 2019, the CRCS Capital Budget funding for 2020 is outlined below. All 2019 CRCS Capital Budget projects are currently in-progress with the funding committed. Should Council decide to allocate funds to the Labyrinth Project from the 2020 operating or capital budgets, the funds would need to be taken from one of the projects previously approved and may result in the scaling of a previously approved project. The estimated construction cost of \$35,000 for the Labyrinth Project would have to replace a previously approved project (see table on next page).

Project Number	Type	Project Name	Gross Cost	Details	Notes
Previously Approved Projects - additional budget requirements					
PRC18-01	SI	Canada Summer Games (Year 3 of 4)	\$320,000	Address asset deficiencies and improvements for the Canada Summer Games (PRCS/CAO-320-2016)	PA
		Subtotal	\$320,000		
Ongoing Annual Capital Renewal Projects					
PRC20-01	SI	Tree Planting Program	\$364,000	Address asset deficiencies and achieve Council approved tree canopy goal of 30%	
PRC20-02	R	Park Renewal Program - Happy Rolph's Playground Equipment	\$330,000	To replace playground assets which are at end of useful life, and to maintain level of service	
		Subtotal	\$694,000		
New Projects					
PRC20-03	R	Memorial Bench Program - 50 Benches (2020-2025)	\$80,000	Replace assets which are approaching end of useful life, and to maintain level of service	
PRC20-04	R	Totem Pole Restoration & Reinstallation	\$125,000	Restore Totem Pole which is at end of useful life (Testing confirmed the significant structural deterioration and deficiencies) PRCS-126-2019	PA
PRC20-05	SI	Canada Summer Games Legacy Project	\$8,720,000	St. Catharines portion of the upgrades to new sport infrastructure & equipment located at a new Canada Games Park adjacent to Brock University. Also a Rowing Centre at the Henley Rowing Course. (CAO-101-2019 & FMS-141-2019)	PA
		Subtotal	\$8,925,000		
			\$9,939,000		
Less:					
	PA	Canada Summer games Legacy Project	\$8,720,000	Council Approval CAO-101-2019	
	PA	Canada Summer Games (Year 3 of 4)	\$320,000	Council Approval PRCS/CAO-320-2016	
	PA	Totem Pole Restoration & Reinstallation	\$125,000		
		Total budget requiring Council approval	\$774,000		

PA = "Previously Approved " During 2019 or prior years, Council approved this 2020 budget item.

Relationship to Strategic Plan

The Labyrinth Project would support the following Social Sustainability Pillar Goals:

- Strive for the highest quality of life for all citizens.
- Connect people, places and neighbourhoods.
- Provide excellent customer service and communication with citizens.

Conclusion

This report provides Council with the information related to the construction costs, scheduling of the project, legal agreements and Ontario Jaycee Gardens Park location for a labyrinth, based on the Niagara-on-the-Lake model.

Prepared & Submitted by:

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Stuart Green, Landscape Architect / Planner

Approved by:

Phil Cristi, Director of Community, Recreation and Culture Services

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Ontario Jaycee Gardens Park Conceptual Labyrinth Location



Labyrinth at Jaycee Park Concept
 City of St.Catharines - PRCS 2019

