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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

SUBJECT Canada Community Revitalization Fund - Motion of Support

ISSUE SUMMARY

To seek support to submit a Canada Community Revitalization Fund grant application for the Revitalization of Centennial Park in Ganges Village, Salt Spring Island.

BACKGROUND

The Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation 2019 Strategic Plan identified the following as a top priority: “continue implementing the Centennial Park Master Plan through a phased approach to replace aging infrastructure, improve the parks visibility, accessibility, safety and aesthetics for all park users.” Further, both the Provincial and Federal Government have budgeted for and prioritized supporting people and businesses to build a strong resilient community and more secure future through a robust and resilient economic recovery plan in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Salt Spring Island is a small rural community with a population of approximately 10,000. Centennial Park is located in the core of Ganges Village, is the jewel of Salt Spring Island, and the most frequently used park. It hosts a number of events, concerts and most notably the Saturday Market which can see over 1500 visitors on a busy day. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Market was shut down and once open was scaled back to provide adequate social distancing. The economic impacts to this reached a number of independent artisans and businesses. The Revitalization of Centennial Park in Ganges Village project will support the economic recovery and resiliency of this rural community by bringing increased traffic and tourists to the Tuesday and Saturday market as well as surrounding businesses in the Village core.

In addition, Centennial Park requires significant upgrades to address the age and deterioration of infrastructure. The current plaza hardscape includes a mix of different patchwork materials. The surface is lifting due to eroded tree root systems and needs improvements to meet accessibility standards. The plan is to upgrade and revitalize the open space, walkway and parking lot, including accessibility features for barrier-free mobility.

The Canada Community Revitalization Fund is intended to help communities across Canada build and improve community infrastructure so they can rebound from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. With a national allocation of \$500 million over two years, the Fund’s purpose is to support not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and other public institutions, as well as Indigenous communities on the road to economic recovery. The focus of the funding will be for projects that assist with community vitality, support social and economic cohesion and help reanimate communities. The Revitalization of Centennial Park in Ganges aligns with two main priorities of the program: 1) Priority will be given to projects that aim to revitalize main streets or downtown cores. This priority directly coincides with supporting and rebuilding the social and economic recovery of the community of Salt Spring as Centennail Park is centrally located

downtown and provides economic support to local market vendors and small businesses. 2) Increase accessibility to public spaces for everyone to enjoy inclusive of people with disabilities. This project will address upgrades to accessibility standards at the park.

In 2016, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) completed a 20 year Master Plan for Centennial Park. The process included extensive community consultation and resulted in conceptual designs of the future park with work to be done in a phased approach. Two of the five phases have already been completed, these include: replacement of the washroom building, and the construction of a new playground facility.

The remaining phases include:

- Construction of a new entrance plaza, increased lighting and parking restoration.
- Construction of a new band shell/public stage and all associated items.
- Constructing a new loop pathway, extending the existing boardwalk and creating a new soft lawn along with all associated items.

This staff report seeks approval to make an application to the Canada Community Revitalization Fund grant program. The grant funds would be used to address the following issues:

- Removal of the existing plaza hardscape
- Underground ditching to address eroded tree root systems
- Replacement of the hardscape with a permeable surface (interlocking brick with Coast Salish design)
- The design will emphasize the entry and exit points as well as provide more/adequate space for the vendor stalls
- Replace and relocate the band shell/ public stage
- Address topography and drainage issues at the park that occur during rainy season
- Improve circulation and pedestrian flow of traffic
- Improve accessibility standards for barrier-free mobility
- Install additional and improved lighting
- Restoration of parking lot

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board (the Board):

That the Board authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding (\$599,940) for the Revitalization of Centennial Park in Ganges Village project through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$200,000) of the project.

Alternative 2

That staff be directed to report back with additional information.

Social Implications

Salt Spring Island is a community of independent artisans and small business. This community was disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Rebuilding the economic resiliency of Salt Spring is a priority and this grant funding provides the opportunity to revitalize Centennial Park which is the central hub for community events and most notably the markets.

Financial Implications

The Salt Spring Island Community Parks Service has planned \$200,000 towards Centennial Park Upgrades project in 2021 Capital Plan, funded by \$100,000 of Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) and \$100,000 of Community Works Funds. A project charter has been approved by PARC to use this funding for designs and costing for the park plaza and to fund a portion of construction. If our grant application for an additional \$599,940 is approved, the scope of this project will be increased to include full construction costs of the plaza, replacement of the band shell and upgrades to existing pathways in the park. Table below outlines the project costs estimation for revised project scope. If the grant application is not successful, we will proceed with the original project scope for total project budget of \$200,000 as approved.

Project Costs Estimation	Amount
Materials and Supplies	\$95,300
Contractors/Professional Fees/Consulting Fees	\$58,000
Capital Costs	\$542,360
Incremental Salaries and Benefits	\$34,780
Other (contingency)	\$69,500
Total	\$799,940

CONCLUSION

Canada Community Revitalization Fund is offering grant funding to build and improve infrastructure in an effort to rebound from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Salt Spring Island is a small rural community of independent artisans and small business owners who rely on a vibrant community as well as tourism for their financial vitality. The Revitalization of the Centennial Park in Ganges Village project would address deficiencies, end of life infrastructure and provide necessary upgrades to the park bringing traffic and tourism back to the park which is the central hub and gathering place for events, activities and the Markets.

RECOMMENDATION

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board (the Board):

That the Board authorize staff to submit an application for grant funding (\$599,940) for the Revitalization of Centennial Park in Ganges Village project through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund; and that the Board supports the project and commits to its share (\$200,000) of the project.

Submitted by:	Dan Ovington, Manager, Parks and Recreation
Concurrence:	Karla Campbell, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Electoral Area
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, Chief Financial Officer, Acting Chief Administrative Officer