



ADDITIONAL AGENDA



FOR THE *REGULAR MEETING OF RED DEER CITY COUNCIL*

TO BE HELD IN

THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

TUESDAY, May 19, 2009

COMMENCING AT 3:00 P.M.



(1) REPORTS

1. Environmental Initiatives Coordinator – *Re: Environmental
Priorities Incentive Funding Request*

..1



DATE: May 11, 2009

TO: Elaine Vincent – Legislative & Administrative Services Manager

FROM: Pam Vust – Environmental Initiatives Coordinator

SUBJECT: Environmental Priorities Incentive Funding Request

Environmental Priorities Incentive Funding Request Background

At its meeting of April 5, 2004, City Council identified and approved the use of the Tax Stabilization Reserve and the Utility Reserve and authorized the City Manager to investigate and bring forward one-time environmental projects for implementation and funding.

Business units are eligible to apply for projects that may include:

- Resources to prepare grant applications
- Funding for research and pilot projects
- Funding for one time initiatives such as public education programs
- Quick wins
- Resources to complete previously approved projects that are under resourced

Council has previously approved seven initiatives under this incentive program:

1. Integrated Pest Management Manual and Pesticide Policy Review - \$15,000
2. Staff Development Fund for Environmental Awareness - \$50,000
3. Pilot Enhancement of the River Valley Clean Up Program - \$5000
4. Installation of Motion Sensors for Lights in Emergency Services Halls - \$10,000
5. Turf Trials for Mustard By-Product as an Alternative Dandelion Control - \$18,000
6. Purchasing a "Bulb Eater" Fluorescent Tube Crushing Machine - \$16,355
7. Spill Response Training Video - \$20,000

Since this process was established, the Environmental Advisory Committee has been formed. It should be noted that the proposed project is not a public initiative and is not within the Environmental Advisory Committee's mandate.

Proposed Project Overview: Organic Turf Management Pilot Project for City Hall Park - \$14,241

The Parks Section is requesting \$14,241 over three years (\$4747 annually) from the Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund to pilot an organic turf management program in City Hall Park. This is a three year pilot project to test the effectiveness of an organic soil management program to improve soil quality and rooting depth of turf. A small section (approximately 3m X 3m) section of the park will be left untreated to allow for comparison of treated vs untreated turf.

Deeper grass roots result in healthier, more resilient turf which requires less long term maintenance, chemical and water use. If effective, Parks plans to use organic turf management as a replacement for current synthetic, chemical based pesticide and fertilizer applications at other locations including sports fields.

History

A soil sample, collected from City Hall Park in 2007, indicated that pH, potassium and sodium levels did not provide optimal growing conditions for turf and that the soil could benefit from enhancement. The Organic Turf Management Program uses organic liquid and granular fertilizer to rejuvenate the soil biology and subsurface microbial growth, rather than applying chemical fertilizers which do not encourage deeper root growth.

Encouraging the grass to develop strong, deep, healthy roots, results in more resilient turf, reduces weed growth, lowers long term maintenance and operating costs and reduces potential exposure to chemical pesticides and fertilizers. It is also expected to reduce irrigation demand in City Hall Park by 30 – 50%. This is consistent with both Integrated Pest Management principles and the Water Conservation Strategy.

Cost

In addition to the \$14, 241 that has been requested, Parks will contribute \$4,000 (\$1,333/year) to this program. This money will be diverted from boulevard fertilization projects and will allow treatment of all turf areas within the park, except for the control area. The total cost of this project will be \$18,241.

Of the total cost of \$18,241, approximately \$10,321 (\$3,440/year) will be used for the purchase and application of the compost extract and organic fertilizers. The remaining \$7,920 (\$2,640/year) will cover the cost of soil testing, lab analysis and the production of an annual project report. It is important to note that should Parks continue to use the organic turf management program after the pilot project is complete, the costs for analysis and report writing will no longer be necessary.

Current cost for fertilization in City Hall Park is approximately \$500/year. The Parks Department will continue normal turf maintenance activities such as aerating, topdressing and mowing so The City's current operating costs will remain the same.

Although organic turf care products currently cost more than traditional synthetic products, increases in the costs of synthetic turf care products and decreasing costs of organic products are expected to make the costs of applying organic increasingly competitive in the future.

Benefits

- Reduced potential health and safety risks from use and exposure to synthetic chemicals
- Reduced water use for irrigation by 30 – 50%
- Healthier, more resilient turf
- Reduced weed growth
- Lowered long term operation and maintenance costs
- High profile location of City Hall Park will provide a public education opportunity to promote organic turf care to the public

Discussion

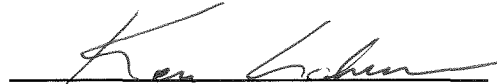
This project proposal falls within the guidelines established for the Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund. The Senior Management Team has reviewed this project and recommends its approval.

Recommendation:

That Council for The City of Red Deer approve \$14,241 from the Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund, through the Tax Stabilization and Utilities Reserves, to cover the organic turf management pilot project for City Hall Park.



Pam Vust
Environmental Initiatives Coordinator



Ken Lehman
Parks Ecological and Planning Specialist



Tom Warder
Environmental Services Manager



Trevor Poth
Parks Superintendent

Council Decision – May 19, 2009

FILE COPY

DATE: May 20, 2009
TO: Pam Vust, Environmental Initiatives Coordinator
FROM: Elaine Vincent, Legislative & Administrative Services Manager
SUBJECT: Environmental Priorities Incentive Funding Request

Reference Report:

Environmental initiatives Coordinator, dated May 11, 2009.

Resolution:

"Resolved that Council of the City of Red Deer after considering the report from the Environmental Initiatives Coordinator, dated May 11, 2009 Re: Environmental Priorities Incentive Funding Request, hereby approves \$14,241 to be transferred from the Tax Stabilization Reserve fund to the Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund to provide for the organic turf management pilot project in City Hall Park and subject to this initiative being forwarded for information and approval at the May 20, 2009 Environmental Advisory Committee meeting."

MOTION CARRIED

Report Back to Council: No.

Comments/Further Action:

The Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund will fund the pilot project for an organic turf management program in City Hall Park. This is a three year program to test the effectiveness of an organic soil management program to improve soil quality and rooting depth of the turf.



Elaine Vincent
Manager

cc: Development Services Director
Environmental Services Manager
Recreation, Parks and Culture Manager
Parks Superintendent
Parks Ecological and Planning Specialist
Mary Bovair, Financial Analyst

Kim Woods

From: Pam Vust
Sent: May 11, 2009 8:57 AM
To: Kim Woods
Cc: Elaine Vincent; Tom Warder; Ken Lehman; Mary Bovair
Subject: RE: Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund Application - Organic Turf Management for City Hall Park

Hi Kim.

Please note that the Environmental Discussion Paper has nothing to do with the Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund.

I thought Mary and I had sorted out all the confusion with the EPI fund last year, but apparently not. I was under the understanding that the resolution made at the April 5, 2004 meeting "...authorizes the City Manager to investigate and bring forward to Council one-time type of environmental projects for implementation and funding." And that what has come to be known as the "Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund" is the mechanism we use to do this. I understand that the money comes from the Tax stabilization and utilities reserves and that there is/was no specific account and/or budget established for the EPI, nor was there a limit established for each project. I will reword my memo to reflect this (sorry, I just modified an old memo and didn't catch this.)

That said I am a little concerned that the terminology may be causing these projects to be delayed and/or derailed. If this is going to continue to cause problems/confusion, perhaps we need to rethink what we call it and/or the process we follow to get environmental projects to Council. Please note that if this project does not go to Council on May 19, Parks will not be able to attempt their organic turf management project this year because of timing issues with fertilization. Will rewording my memo address Mary's concerns or is this something we need to discuss further before proceeding?

Thanks.

Pam Vust

Environmental Initiatives Coordinator
City of Red Deer
Phone: 403-342-8751
Fax: 403-309-2695
email: pam.vust@reddeer.ca

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Kim Woods
Sent: May 08, 2009 4:06 PM
To: Pam Vust
Cc: Elaine Vincent
Subject: FW: Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund Application - Organic Turf Management for City Hall Park
Importance: High

Hi Pam:

We circulated your report through Finance and you need to consider the recommendations from Mary, see below.


I will need an updated report for Monday at the latest 4:30pm.

Thanks.

Kim

Pam Vust

Environmental Initiatives Coordinator
City of Red Deer
Phone: 403-342-8751
Fax: 403-309-2695
email: pam.vust@reddeer.ca

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Pam Vust
Sent: May 08, 2009 11:03 AM
To: Kim Woods
Subject: Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund Application - Organic Turf Management for City Hall Park

Hi Kim.

Here is the memo to Council about the Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund application. If you need more info, please let me know.

Cheers!

P m Vust

Environmental Initiatives Coor << File: EPI Fund Organic turf memo to Council.doc >> dinator
City of Red Deer
Phone: 403-342-8751
Fax: 403-309-2695
email: pam.vust@reddeer.ca

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Kim Woods

From: Pam Vust
Sent: May 08, 2009 11:03 AM
To: Kim Woods
Subject: Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund Application - Organic Turf Management for City Hall Park

Attachments: EPI Fund Organic turf memo to Council.doc

Hi Kim.

Here is the memo to Council about the Environmental Priorities Incentive Fund application. If you need more info, please let me know.


Cheers!



EPI Fund Organic
turf memo to ...

Pam Vust

Environmental Initiatives Coordinator
City of Red Deer
Phone: 403-342-8751
Fax: 403-309-2695
email: pam.vust@reddeer.ca

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Kim Woods

From: Pam Vust
Sent: May 07, 2009 2:40 PM
To: Kim Woods
Subject: RE: Council for May 19

Ok. I will try to have it to you tomorrow by noon.

Pam Vust

Environmental Initiatives Coordinator
City of Red Deer
Phone: 403-342-8751
Fax: 403-309-2695
email: pam.vust@reddeer.ca

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

*Finance -
Yes final May 8th*

From: Kim Woods
Sent: May 07, 2009 2:22 PM
To: Pam Vust
Subject: RE: Council for May 19

By tomorrow or Monday at noon.

Kim Woods

Council Services Coordinator
The City of Red Deer
Legislative & Administrative Services
Phone: 403.342.8201
Email: kim.woods@reddeer.ca
Website: www.reddeer.ca

From: Pam Vust
Sent: May 07, 2009 12:42 PM
To: Kim Woods
Subject: RE: Council for May 19

Yes, I'm just finishing up the draft memo to Elaine today.

When do you need it?

Pam Vust

Environmental Initiatives Coordinator
City of Red Deer
Phone: 403-342-8751
Fax: 403-309-2695
email: pam.vust@reddeer.ca

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Kim Woods
Sent: May 07, 2009 12:26 PM
To: Pam Vust
Subject: Council for May 19

Is the Env Priorities Incentive fund application coming to open council? We talked awhile ago and I want to make sure.

Kim

Kim Woods

Council Services Coordinator

The City of Red Deer

Legislative & Administrative Services

Phone: 403.342.8201

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Website: www.reddeer.ca