



Special Town Council Meeting

April 2, 2019

Council Chambers, Town Hall

359 Main Street

Agenda

Call to Order

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Public Input / Question Period

Procedure: A thirty-minute time period will be provided for members of the public to address Council regarding questions, concerns and/or ideas. Each person will have a maximum of two minutes to address Council with a second two-minute time period provided if there is time within the thirty-minute Public Input / Question timeframe.

3. Motions/Recommendations from Committee of the Whole, April 2, 2019:

- a. RFD 019-2019: Skateboard Park Tower Field

4. Public Input / Question Period:

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5. Special Meeting Adjourned

REQUEST FOR DECISION #019-2019

Tower Skateboard Park Relocation

Date: April 2, 2019

Department: Parks and Recreation



SUMMARY

Tower Skateboard Park Relocation

As the Town was working to find a suitable space to move the skateboard park, discussions were held with Acadia University about the potential of moving the park up to an area adjacent the Tower Soccer fields. During these discussions, it was felt that developing the site with the addition of a basketball court, seating area and/or passive exercise space would provide an enhanced recreational experience for all users. The Acadia Students' Union has agreed to provide funding to cover these enhancements, which result in an overall total project cost that exceeds what was recently approved by Council in the 2019-20 Capital Budget. The purpose of this RFD is to seek approval from Council to proceed with the project at a total project cost of \$125,000.

DRAFT MOTIONS:

That Council approve increasing the allocated capital spending to support moving the skateboard park from the East End Gateway to a newly developed recreation hub located next to the Tower soccer fields to \$125,000. The increase in Town spending would be to a maximum of \$90,000.

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1) CAO COMMENTS

The CAO supports the recommendations of staff. This initiative is an excellent example of how the MOU between the ASU, Acadia University and the Town can lead to innovative partnerships.

2) LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 65(ag) of the *Municipal Government Act* enables the expenditure of funds for municipal recreational purposes.

3) STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council approve the increase in the Capital Budget to \$125,000 to accommodate the change in scope of the project.

4) REFERENCES AND ATTACHMENTS

- See attachment for the proposed site plan

5) DISCUSSION

The Town has made a commitment in principle to develop the East End Gateway, including the greenspace, the connecting walkway from the Harvest Moon trail and the adjoining parking lot. The parking lot is currently home to the Town-owned skateboard park. After consultation and recommendations, the Town entered into discussions with Acadia University to move the skateboard park to an area near the upper Tower soccer fields. The soccer fields are currently maintained by the Town's Parks and Recreation staff.

Through discussions with Acadia and the Acadia Students' Union, it was determined that it would be advantageous to not only provide a new home for the skateboard park, but to also develop a new recreation hub accessible to students as well as members of the Wolfville community.

First versions of the proposed plan included an area for the Skateboard equipment, a half-court basketball pad and a beach volleyball court. Upon further investigation and discussions, it was suggested that increasing the half-court basketball to a full court would improve use, lessen maintenance requirements, and could also provide a space for ground hockey. It was also suggested that there should be space made to either have some exercise equipment or a place to just sit and relax.

Based on these changes to the project, the initial budget number for the project (\$75,000) needs to be revised in order to incorporate the additional development pieces. Staff believe the project will cost \$125,000 and will include the relocation of the current town owned skateboard park, the addition of a full-sized basketball court, a seating area, along with new landscaping and signage. ASU continues to support this and has committed \$35,000 to the project and want to partner in the final design.

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Staff are requesting that Council consider the draft motion to adjust the scope of the project from the initial \$75,000 to \$125,000. The \$50,000 increase will be offset by the contribution from the ASU, which is willing to contribute \$35,000 to the project. While Acadia will not be making a direct financial contribution to the project, they are willing to provide the land for the project and enter into a long-term lease for the entire property. The current lease that the Town has with Acadia for Tower Field was due to be re-negotiated in this current fiscal year.

A new MOU is being developed to support this investment and to ensure access for all stakeholders. Part of this will include the implications for care and maintenance. This site will be the Town's responsibility and the Town will assume responsibility for maintenance and liability. Town staff are currently maintaining the soccer fields at this location and anticipate that the maintenance requirements can be absorbed within existing resources.

6) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This project requires \$125,000 of which the ASU is committed to \$35,000. Town of Wolfville approved \$75,000 for the initial move of the Skateboard Park and is now being asked to approve an additional \$50,000 to create a new Recreation Hub for the Town. Funding for the project will be as follows:

Total revised cost	\$125,000
Funding from Capital Reserve (approved budget)	(\$75,000)
ASU Commitment	<u>(\$35,000)</u>
Additional Amount required from Capital Reserves	<u>\$15,000</u>

7) REFERENCES TO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN AND TOWN REPORTS

Council Strategic Principles:

- a. **Affordability:** With the Support of Acadia University and the Acadia Students' Union the Town of Wolfville will be able to create additional recreation space with a \$50,000 adjustment to the 19/20 budget.
- b. **Transparency:** Budget process has been carried out through Council proceedings and all documentation is publicly available.
- c. **Community Capacity Building:** The addition of a full-sized basketball court and seating area will add recreational capacity to the Town of Wolfville and families using the Tower soccer fields.
- d. **Discipline to Stay the Course:** Creating opportunities for collaborative investment in projects is fundamental to the Town's Mission.

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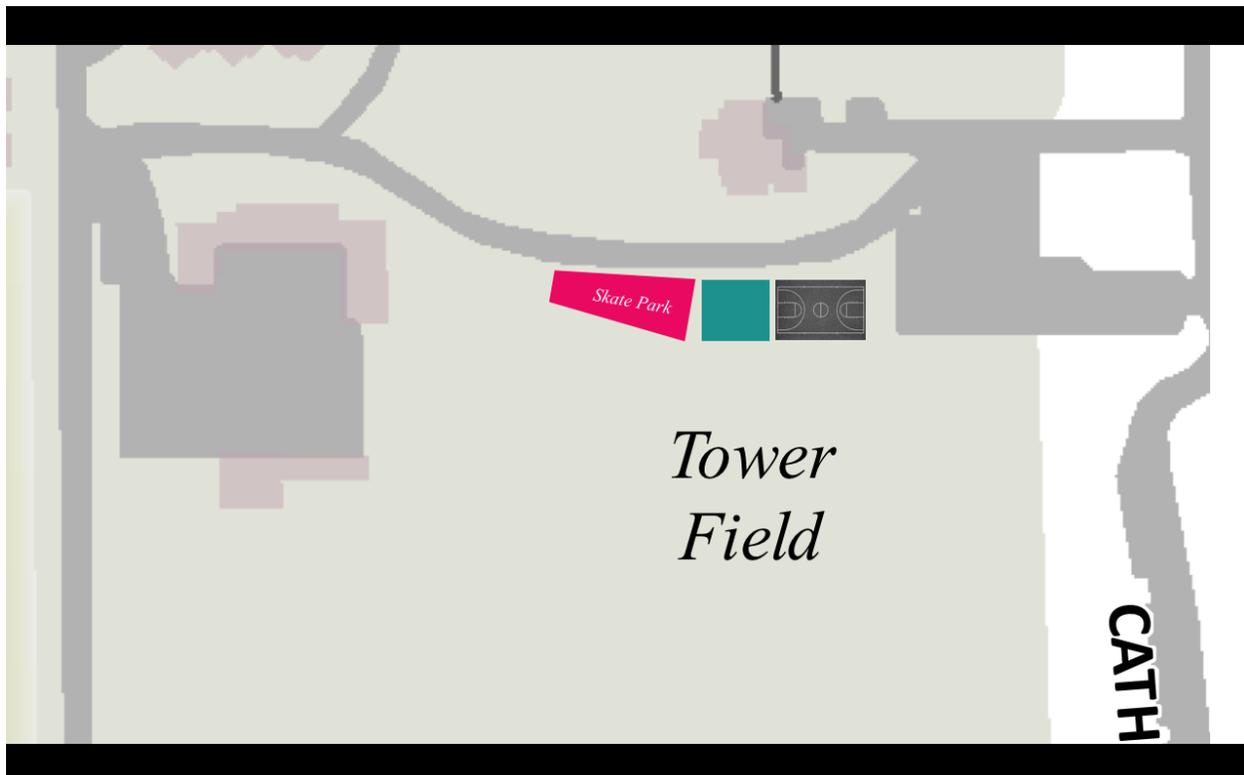
- e. **United Front:** Council's decision to provide funding builds on the MOU with Acadia and the Acadia Students' Union. Recreational space and supporting active lifestyles is integral to the Town's Strategic Plan.
- f. **Environmental Sustainability:** Moving the skateboard park creates additional parking at the East End gateway to support the Town's commitment to walkability.

8) COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

Parks and Recreation staff will advise users of current skateboard park about the move to the new space. Efforts are being made to move the skateboard equipment at the end of April 2019 to allow for lining of new parking spaces and plans to have the new park available by the end of June 2019.

9) ATTACHMENT

Proposed site plan.



10) ALTERNATIVES

Council can also opt to not do this; however the ASU and Acadia would be less likely to support the initiative with the reduced scope.