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**TO:** GENERAL COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT:** INVESTIGATION INTO SKATEBOARD PARK UPDATE

**WARD:** 2

**PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT:** W. FISCHER, B.L.A., O.A.L.A.  
SUPERVISOR OF PARKS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (Ext. 5101)

**SUBMITTED BY:** R. SUTTON, P. Eng.  
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

**GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL:** R. FORWARD, M.B.A., M.Sc., P. Eng.  
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL:** M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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#### **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

1. That Staff Report ENG002-18 be received for information purposes.

#### **PURPOSE & BACKGROUND**

2. In early 2017, City staff were approached by a local business partner who was interested in partnering with the City on improvements to the downtown skateboard park in Queen's Park. The business owner presented a potential 3-D model image of a new concrete skateboard component that they were proposing for the park. See Appendix "A" for illustration.
3. As the idea was in its infancy, City staff and Councillor Shipley met with the business partner to outline the proposal with the result that Councilor Shipley would bring forward an item for discussion at General Committee. The request would be for staff to investigate the feasibility, risk assessment, costs (capital and long-term operating costs), partnership model, fundraising model and other elements of the proposal. Motion 17-G-053 was approved by General Committee on March 20, 2017 and states:

"That staff in the Engineering Department (Parks Planning) investigate the proposal outlined by Downtown business owners/operators and parents of local skateboarders to upgrade the skateboard park and report back to General Committee regarding the proposal including potential partnerships, fundraising opportunities, financial implications, and timing. (Item for Discussion 8.1, March 20, 2017) (File: R00)"

#### **ANALYSIS**

4. Further to Motion 17-G-053, Engineering and Parks and Forestry staff met with the owner of Tropical North to review the skateboard proposal and to review the feasibility of the plan. Through discussions, staff discussed how the proposal could be strengthened with additional input from local businesses and donors. Staff discussed possible fundraising opportunities but require more detail on its feasibility and construction methodology prior to undertaking more detailed discussions on its location within the skateboard park. At this time, staff also identified that a Joint Funding

- Agreement would need to be formulated in order to detail and permit the construction implementation to occur.
5. Since mid-2017, the City has made efforts to continue the discussion to fulfill the intent of the Motion to investigate the proposal and report back to General Committee.
  6. Unfortunately, the business partner, Tropical North, has since advised the City that they would no longer be pursuing a partnership project for the skateboard park.
  7. Staff note that recent intensification within the downtown core will add pressure on our existing parkland to provide additional recreational amenities for public use. Therefore, to increase capacity of the skateboard park with newer components, while also undertaking needed repairs, an enhanced skateboard park would draw new users to Queen's Park and make it more of a destination site.
  8. In 2018, a local business called "Evolve Camp" will be undertaking a week long summer camp program in the park that focuses on improving fundamental physical skills like balance and coordination for new and existing skateboard users. Twenty participants are expected to register.
  9. Parks Planning staff regularly investigate the playability and capacity of park components and will look for opportunities to bring forward skateboard park enhancements in future Capital Business Plans.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

10. There are no environmental matters related to this Staff Report.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

11. There are no alternatives being proposed for consideration by General Committee.

#### **FINANCIAL**

12. Should proposed projects come forward within future Capital planning processes based on development intensification within the downtown core, financing for these enhancements will include a variety of sources such as cash-in-lieu reserves, and other non-capital based financing such as fundraising, crowdfunding, and possible service club donations.

#### **LINKAGE TO 2014-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN**

13. The recommendation included in this Staff Report supports the following goals identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:
  - ☒ Inclusive Community
14. The rehabilitation of Queen's Park skateboard park with new components and needed repairs, would strengthen and enhance the use of the site for existing and new residents in the downtown core.

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**APPENDIX "A" – Illustrations for the Proposed Skateboard Feature**

