

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM10.11	ACTION			Ward:13
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Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds to the Toronto District School Board towards Playground Improvements at Runnymede Junior and Senior Public School - by Councillor Sarah Doucette, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.
* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

Recommendations

Councillor Sarah Doucette, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the approved 2015 Operating Budget for Non-Program by \$35,000 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained in the development at 1844-1854 Bloor Street West, 35 and 37 Pacific Avenue, 6-14 Oakmount Road and Part of 18 and 18A Oakmount Road, (source account XR3026-3700591), for the purpose of forwarding funds to the Toronto District School Board for the capital improvements to the school playgrounds at Runnymede Junior and Senior Public School.
2. City Council authorize the execution of a Community Access Agreement with the Toronto District School Board for the capital improvements to playgrounds at Runnymede Junior and Senior Public School, to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor.
3. City Council request City staff from the Management Services Branch of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division to participate in the preparation of the Community Access Agreement and City Council request the City Solicitor to draw up the Agreement, in consultation with the Ward Councillor and Community Planning staff.
4. City Council direct that the funds be forwarded to the Toronto District School Board once the Toronto District School Board has signed a Community Access Agreement with the City, governing the purpose of the funds, the financial reporting requirements, and addressing community access to the improved facilities, drawn up in consultation with the Ward Councillor.

Summary

This Motion seeks to support improvements to the playground at Runnymede Junior and Senior

Public School located at 357 Runnymede Road. The funds will go towards the direct "play circuit" equipment that is one of the primary features of the new playground. This will supplement the \$125,000.00 in donations that has already been raised by volunteers, and contribute toward the total of \$225,000.00 needed.

Section 37 funds in the amount of \$1,564,780 (\$1,550,000 plus indexing and interest) have been secured by an Order of the Ontario Municipal Board dated January 24, 2013 that approves a zoning by-law for lands at 1844-1854 Bloor Street West, 35 and 37 Pacific Avenue, 6-14 Oakmount Road and Part of 18 and 18A Oakmount Road. The funds are to be used towards capital improvements to one or more of the following within Ward 13: local parks; local streetscapes; and local non-profit childcare facilities. A total of \$1,499,781 remains unspent and can be utilized for the identified capital facilities/community benefits. This Motion proposes to provide a total of \$35,000 to the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) towards the cost of improvements to the playground at Runnymede Junior And Senior Public School.

Council approved Implementation Guidelines for Section 37 provide state that:

"Cash contributions toward the capital improvement of school board playgrounds are eligible S.37 community benefits where the playground serves as a local park, where the public will continue to have reasonable access for the foreseeable future, and where there is no local City-owned parkland performing a similar function in the same community that could otherwise benefit from the cash contribution."

Currently, the playground and surrounding play facilities at Runnymede Junior and Senior Public School are used after hours by community members. The local City-owned parkland nearby has already been improved in recent years through Section 37 funding, and this facility can continue to be used by community members to supplement their access to local outdoor play space.

This Toronto District School Board-approved play area improvement will provide an imaginative, safe place for students and community members alike to enjoy healthy, active play every day. Requests to support this project have come directly from community members, and will serve children and youth from the ages of 4 to 14. Sufficient funds have been collected for parks in the vicinity of the subject development at Bloor Street West and Pacific Avenue, and there remain funds for future needs as they arise for local parks.

A Community Access Agreement to be signed by the Toronto District School Board will contain provisions governing the purpose of the funds, the financial reporting requirements, and access to the revitalized grounds at the school. The Community Access Agreement will be executed between the City and the Toronto District School Board, drawn up in consultation with the local Councillor.

This Motion is urgent as it ensures that funding is available for the playground's 2016 budget process.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM10.11