

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM41.22	ACTION			Ward:30
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Release of Section 37 Funds from the Development at 319 Carlaw Avenue to the Toronto District School Board for Bruce Junior Public School at 51 Larchmount Avenue to contribute to their School Yard Revitalization project - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Sarah Doucette

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

1. City Council increase the Approved 2018 Operating Budget for Non-Program by \$50,000.00 gross, \$0 net, (Cost Centre: NP2161) fully funded by Section 37 funds obtained in the development 319 Carlaw Avenue (\$31,445.81 from Source Account: XR3026-3700373 and \$18,554.19 from Source Account: XR3026-3700372), for the purpose of providing one time capital funding to the Toronto District School Board for the School Yard Revitalization project at Bruce Junior Public School (51 Larchmount Avenue).
2. 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 request the City Solicitor to draw up the Agreement, in consultation with the Ward Councillor and Community Planning staff.
3. City Council authorize the execution of a Community Access Agreement with the Toronto District School Board for the School Yard Revitalization project at Bruce Junior Public School, to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor.
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 playground facilities satisfactory to the City Solicitor, and prepared in consultation with the General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation and the Ward Councillor.

Summary

Bruce Junior Public School is located in the Leslieville and serves a diverse and growing community. It has been part of the neighbourhood since 1923 and offers instruction from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. They have a vibrant Early Years partnership with WoodGreen Community Services, providing seamless childcare and learning opportunities for families and children of all ages and backgrounds.

In the last couple of years, the School Yard Revitalization Committee has been working with the Toronto District School Board to redesign the school's outdoor space in a manner that fosters creative learning, movement and connection to nature. Natural environments provide health benefits for all ages. Contact with nature can positively influence physical and mental health and well-being, and improve quality of life. There is increasing evidence to support the importance of outdoor play for children's health, well-being and overall development. The School Yard Revitalization project aims to provide the children of Bruce Junior Public School with increased opportunity to take full advantage of the outdoors and benefit fully from contact with nature and their natural surroundings.

Funds have been secured and received from the development at 319 Carlaw Avenue for a range of community benefits. The enacting by-laws for the development provides that the monies may be redirected at the discretion of the Chief Planner in consultation with the local Councillor, toward local park improvements, streetscape improvements, community facility improvements, public art, community gardens, pedestrian and cycling facilities and heritage related improvements within Ward 30.

Further, the Council approved Implementation Guidelines for Section 37 provide state that:

"Cash contributions toward the capital improvement of school board playgrounds are eligible Section 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."

The intended use of the funds comply with the purposes identified in the by-law.

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 playgrounds 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 there is an opportunity for some matching funds if it be demonstrated that they have reached a target that this contribution will help with in advance of the end of school year in June.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM41.22

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-115311.pdf>)