
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM44.43	ACTION			Ward:32
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Lighting for Ashbridges Bay Skateboard Park - by Councillor Janet Davis, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Community Development and Recreation Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Janet Davis, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to include funding in the 2019 divisional Capital Plan for the installation of lights at Ashbridges Bay Skateboard Park in 2019, for consideration in the 2019 Budget Process.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to initiate the design process in 2018 to support construction in 2019 using existing allocations within the 2018 budget.

Summary

Ashbridges Bay Skateboard Park is the largest skatepark in the Ontario. The park acts a regional park for the City, and is used heavily by local skateboarders and those from across Toronto. The park is located on public lands at the corner of Coxwell Avenue and Lake Shore Boulevard East, and is a great distance from all residential housing.

This park was planned, designed and built in two phases. Phase one included ramps, rails and other elements, and the Phase two included a bowl. The second phase was to be funded through a dedicated reserve fund, however, these funds were re-allocated to another park project. Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff included funding in a subsequent capital budget to complete the second phase. Unfortunately lighting was not included in the project.

The skateboard community came together with Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff five years ago to provide input to the City on skateboarding in Toronto. The group established a new body named the Toronto Skateboarding Committee. The members helped to shape the Skateboarding Strategy which was approved by City Council in October 2016. The Toronto Skateboarding Committee also provided detailed input to Parks Capital staff on capital needs for the state-of-good repair program and the Facilities Master Plan. The partnership between Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Toronto Skateboarding Committee has been a productive and positive one.

Over this time, the skateboarding community has consistently requested the installation of lighting for Ashbridges Bay Skateboard Park. This would allow for more skating time in the park and make the facility safer. The request for lighting emerged as the number one request in the survey of skateboarders in Toronto during the development of the Strategy and has consistently emerged as a priority at the Toronto Skateboarding Committee.

Several other skateboard parks in Ontario have installed lighting, such as Kitchener and Ajax. This would be the first skateboard park lighting in Toronto and will require securing a lighting design consultant and tendering the installation. This would mean that no lights will be installed until at least 2020 unless the project is expedited. We have consulted the Parks Capital staff and the Co-Chairs of the Toronto Skateboarding Committee in the development of this Motion.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM44.43