

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM6.29	ACTION			Ward: 12
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Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds to Toronto District School Board for Hillcrest Community School Playground and Schoolyard Revitalization- by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Bravo

** 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 Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Bravo, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the 2023 Operating Budget for Non-Program by \$280,000 gross, \$0 net, (Cost Centre: NP2161) fully funded by Section 37 funds obtained from the development at 1443, 1445, 1451 Bathurst Street and 501 St. Clair Avenue (Source Account:XR3026-3700597), for the purpose of providing one time capital funding to the Toronto District School Board in order to assist Hillcrest Community School with the construction of a new playground, schoolyard and expanded turf.
2. City Council request City staff from the Management Services Branch of Parks, Forestry and Recreation 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, provided acceptable terms can be agreed upon.
3. City Council authorize the execution of a Community Access Agreement with the Toronto District School Board for the capital improvements to Hillcrest Community School, for a term of 20 years and on such other terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and in a form satisfactory to 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 an acceptable Community Access Agreement with the City governing the purpose of the funds, the financial reporting requirements and addressing community access to the playground facilities.
5. City Council direct that if a mutually acceptable Community Access Agreement cannot be agreed upon that the funds will not be transferred to the Toronto District School Board and shall be made available for other community facilities in the Community.

Summary

This Motion seeks to contribute \$280,000 of Section 37 funds, to assist Hillcrest Community School with the construction of a new playground, schoolyard and expanded turf. The Hillcrest Community School playground and schoolyard are well used by the school and the community at large. This funding will assist with a project that will improve and revitalize the playgrounds and other outdoor areas at the school. This will ensure that the school community and the public have access to outdoor facilities that are safe and accessible, while providing increased opportunities for outdoor learning and physical activity at the school.

In the absence of a City playground nearby, the assist Hillcrest Community School grounds serve that purpose for the wider community. The Section 37 Implementation Guidelines (Section 5.7) approved by Council states:

"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 funds will be forwarded to the Toronto District School Board once the School Board has entered into 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, to the satisfaction of the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the City Solicitor, prepared in consultation with the Ward Councillor.

This Motion is urgent because the Toronto District School Board would like to move forward with the project as soon as possible. Their current playground was installed approximately 20 years ago, with much of the wood foundation rotting, and in dire need of replacement.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM6.29