



MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Jana Nethercott, Clerk
Date: 2023-04-13
Subject: 2023 Inclusive Community Grant

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Jana Nethercott, Clerk re: 2023 Inclusive Community Grant; and

That West Elgin Council hereby requests Staff proceed with applying for the 2023 Inclusive Community Grant for the creation of Multi Use Pathways in Miller Park and to continue the partnership with the Optimist Club of West Lorne for this project.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to get Council approval to apply for the 2023 Inclusive Community Grant for the creation of Multi Use Pathways in Miller Park.

Background:

In 2020 the Optimist Club of West Lorne purchased and installed barrier free playground equipment in Miller Park with funds from a Trillium Grant. As part of this partnership, West Elgin Staff have been applying for different grants to help improve the pathway system within Miller Park to improve the accessibility of the pathways to get to this equipment. The pandemic did put a damper on some of these granting opportunities and cancelled some of the applications. The Optimist Club of West Lorne however was successful in getting donations and fundraising to pave a portion of the trail system and create an accessible access point to the playground from the accessible parking spots.

On March 10, 2023 the Province announced the 2023 Inclusive Community Grant, with an application deadline of April 20, 2023. Staff researched this grant, and the program lays out a few priorities, one of them being: "Increasing accessibility to outdoor spaces to improve older adults and people with disabilities community engagement". This grant is available to municipalities, with collaboration encouraged among municipalities, community organizations and Indigenous communities and others.

The 2023 Inclusive Community Grant is for up to a maximum of \$60,000 and will support 100% of the total eligible project costs. The Optimist Club of West Lorne has obtained a quote from one vendor at a cost of \$107.85 per m³. There is approximately 3300 sq m left to be paved which at that price, we would not be able to complete this project, however we could do approximately 525 m³ for the maximum grant allotment of \$60,000, which would be able to complete tying together some of the infrastructure within the park to at least provide a safe and firm pathway.

Financial Implications:

The only financial implication is staff time to complete the application.

Policies/Legislation:

Respectfully submitted by,
Jana Nethercott.