



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: May 27, 2019

SUBJECT: The Use of Box Grove Community Funds for Street Lights
(Ward 7)

PREPARED BY: Brian Lee, Director of Engineering, ext. 7507

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report entitled “The Use of Box Grove Community Funds for Street Lights (Ward 7)” be received; and,
2. That available Box Grove Community Funds in the amount of \$357,858 be used for the installation of municipal street lights on Ridgevale Drive and Rouge River Circle in Box Grove be endorsed; and,
3. That a 2019 Engineering Capital Project be established using the Box Grove Community Funds as the funding source for the design and construction of street lights on Ridgevale Drive and Rouge River Circle, at an estimated cost of \$345,000 including contingencies, internal charges and HST impact; and
4. That, following completion of the project, the estimated remaining Box Grove Community Funds of \$12,858 (\$357,858 - \$345,000) remain in the Box Grove Community Funds until future community use of the funds is identified and until the funds are exhausted; and further,
5. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s approval to use the Box Grove Community Funds for installation of municipal street lights on Ridgevale Drive and Rouge River Circle in the Box Grove Community.

BACKGROUND:

The City received the Box Grove Community Funds (620 101 5699 6805) with the original amount of \$500,000 through the Box Grove Community Memorandum of Understanding dated June 13, 2002 (the “MOU”). The MOU requires the Owner of the Box Grove developer group to pay the Funds which are to be used “for public infrastructure and community facilities, in addition to that described in other clauses of this MOU.”

Since that time, some of the funds have been used. There is also a history where the resident groups and Council disagreed how to use the remainder of the funds. A brief chronology of the various decisions and staff reports is provided in Attachment “A”.

A staff report to Development Services Committee (DSC) meeting on February 19, 2008 entitled “Box Grove Community Fund Distribution” recommended that the remaining funds be used for street light improvements and improvements to the Box Grove Community Centre. The ratepayers did not support the use of the funds as recommended by staff and the report was deferred. The March 18, 2008 DSC resolved that the fund distribution “be referred to the Markham Subcommittee following a Box Grove residents meeting to discuss these matters.”

Subsequently, some of the funds were used as approved by Council and agreed to by the resident group. Currently, there is a remaining balance of \$357,858.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Street Lights for the Box Grove Community is a Community Benefit

As indicated in the 2008 staff report mentioned above, staff indicated that street light improvements to municipal streets is a community benefit and is an appropriate use of the funds. In the 2008 report, staff recommended that certain sections of Ninth Line, 14th Avenue, Ridgevale Drive and Rouge River Crescent be provided with municipal street light. This was not well received by the residents at that time and the plan as abandoned.

Letter from Mr. Tom Ferrar Supports the use of the Funds for Street Lights

Mr. Tom Ferrar (President of Box Grove Community Association – 1991 to 2013) wrote to the Mayor & Councillors in a letter dated December 1, 2018 (see Attachment “B”) requested that homeowners on 14th Avenue and Ninth Line south of 14th Avenue be compensated for water lines, streetlights for Ridgevale Drive and Rouge River Crescent, and funds to be prorated per household to augment the installation of sewers.

Since the 2008 staff report, streetlights have been installed for 14th Avenue and Ninth Line except for Ridgevale Drive and Rouge River Crescent. Mr. Ferrar supports using the Funds for streetlights on these two streets in his recent letter.

Residents at Ridgevale Drive and Rouge River Crescent have Requested Street Lights

Staff has received increasing number of requests from residents of Ridgevale Drive and Rouge River Crescent in recent years for street lights on their streets.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the above factors, staff is of the opinion that using the Funds for street lights serves a community benefit and there appears to be public support in general. Therefore, staff recommends that a 2019 Engineering Capital Project be established for the design and construction of the street lights. Based on staff preliminary estimate of \$345,000 for the design and construction (including contingencies, internal charges and HST impact), there is sufficient amount in the Box Grove Community Funds to pay for this project. If approved by Council, staff will proceed with the design of the street lights now and construction will likely be carried out in 2020. Any amount remaining from the project

will be returned to the Box Grove Community Funds for future uses for which the funds were established, until the funds are exhausted.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There is a balance of \$357,858 in the Box Grove Community Funds – Account 620 101 5699 6805. If Council is supportive of using the Funds for street light, a new Engineering Capital Project be requested to fund the design and construction, and the required amount be transferred from the Box Grove Community Funds to this new account.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS:

Not Applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The installation of street lights increases public safety to this neighbourhood.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

The Finance Department was consulted in the preparation of this report.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Brian Lee, P. Eng.
Director, Engineering

Arvin Prasad, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Commissioner, Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment “A” – Chronology of Box Grove Community Funds

Attachment “B” – Letter from Mr. Tom Farrar dated December 1, 2018