



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Splash Pad request

Date: March 29, 2021

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Background:

We have attached the presentation respecting the potential construction of a splash pad at the Mariners Center location. Staff is bringing additional information to Council for consideration.

The Municipality and Town of Yarmouth have approved their portion of funding, which was requested at 1/3 for each municipal unit. The statistics on surveys suggest a slightly different percentage, with 37.6% usage from the MODY, and 34.9% usage from the Town. Argyle was at 20.9%, with the rest coming from outside our municipal units. The Community group responsible for the project organization summarized their efforts and their intentions in the presentation.

The community group has worked with Marc Brophy, Engineer for the Town to examine appropriate location at the Mariners Center as well as discussed cost estimates. They would like to see the project commence in a year from now, with the asset being usable by summer of 2022. The project would be conditional on funds being raised as indicated below.

The closest splash parks are located in Middleton and Shelburne.

Financial summary - Capital:

Total cost of installation	\$349,000	
Municipal portion	\$116,333	(one third – our portion requested \$38,777.)
Fundraiser	\$116,333	
Prov/Fed request	\$116,333	

Operational cost summary (annual costs)

\$20,000 annually, which is proposed to be taken over by Mariners Center. That would result in our portion being 33% in accordance with the current funding agreement with the current owners.

MGA considerations:

Section 65 does not exclude investment in recreation projects. Whether the project is led by Mariners Center or the non-profit organization, the Municipality may contribute to a non-profit organization. Recreation projects are an eligible and typical municipal expenditure.

Additional information:

The request represents 1/6ths of the entire cost of the project. In many cases, our percentage of contribution is higher for capital projects of this nature. The committee has considered fundraising for the project, which is not only a big assist, but also an indicator of community interest for the project. The success of the Provincial funding is unknown, and unconfirmed.

HST considerations should be assessed, as the Mariners Center is an HST registrant, and the non-profit organizing committee is not. If the conclusion is for the MC to manage, own and operate the facility, arrangements should be made for the MC to construct directly.

Suggested motion:

If supportive

Move that the Municipality of the District of Argyle support the splash pad in the amount of \$_____ (request \$38,777), to be built on the property of the Mariners Center, and that the Mariners Center take over management and ownership of the asset.

If non-supportive, reject the request.