

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Shane Bourke, City Manager	DATE: May 13, 2025
FROM: Danielle Whiteway, Chief Financial Officer	MEETING: Investment and Strategy Committee
REPORT WRITER: Katie Biberdorf, Community Connections Director	
SUBJECT: Grande Prairie Regional Recreation Committee	

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee receive this report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL / COMMITTEE DIRECTIONS

From the Council meeting held October 17, 2016:

“Direct the Mayor coordinate a joint invitation with the Reeve of the County of Grande Prairie to invite the Municipal District of Greenview, Town of Wembley, Town of Beaverlodge, Village of Hythe and Town of Sexsmith to be part of a Joint Grande Prairie Area Recreation Committee”.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the City and County of Grande Prairie funded a joint recreation master plan, written to help guide the City, County and other municipalities in the area in decision making related to publicly supported recreation facilities and programs. The joint master plan recommended a committee, known as the Grande Prairie Regional Recreation Committee (GPRRC) comprised of elected officials, an administrative working group (AWG), as well as a staff member to implement the plan. In 2017, a coordinator was hired on a part-time basis.

ANALYSIS

The AWG actioned the majority of recommendations outlined in the 2016 joint recreation master plan, and as a result, communication, collaboration, and relationship building at the municipal level within the region increased significantly. The Grande Prairie region was also established as a leader in best practices of regional recreation collaboration, demonstrated by three presentations at the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association annual conference.

After withdrawal of one of the members, the GPRRC directed the AWG to provide information related to the work done since inception of the committee and implementation of the joint recreation master plan.

As a result, the AWG recommended a number of items including:

- Discontinuation of the paid coordinator position
- Reduced elected official commitment

- AWG to provide annual reports on the state of recreation in the region
- Ability to call a special meeting with elected officials as necessary
- Amend the terms of reference to reference only the AWG, meeting a minimum of six times per year to maintain communication and ensure continuity of black ice reporting

The GPRRC then made a motion to accept the recommendations made by the AWG.

Relationship to City Council's Areas of Focus / Strategic Priorities

Engaging Relationships, Quality of Life

Environmental Impact

No environmental impact.

Economic Impact

No economic impact.

Social Impact

Continuing with the AWG will foster regional collaboration and shared information to support all municipalities involved, resulting in improved recreation opportunities for residents.

Relevant Statutes / Master Plans / City Documents

[Recreation and Culture Strategy](#) (2024)

[Joint Recreation Master Plan](#) (2016)

Risk

No risks associated with this report.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The GPRRC met in December 2024, to discuss withdrawal of the MD of Greenview from the committee. A motion was made to re-evaluate the scope and role of the committee, along with the paid staff position. Shortly after in January 2025, the town of Beaverlodge withdrew participation in the committee. The AWG reviewed history of the committee and accomplishments to date and prepared a recommendation to the GPRRC in March 2025.

BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The current allocated budget for the City's portion of the regional recreation committee is \$56,948.

SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

The GPRRC has provided significant benefit to the City of Grande Prairie and the region over the past eight years. Administration will continue to participate in the committee in an administrative capacity and maintain communication and relationships regarding recreation with neighbouring municipalities.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Grande Prairie Regional Recreation Committee Review

Attachment B – March 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes