

The Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore

Report to Council

Community & Development Services

Recreation Services



To: Mayor & Members of Council
From: Tammie Ryall, Director of Community and Development Services
Date: February 28, 2020
Subject: Sun Protection at the Atlas Tube Centre Splash Pad

Recommendation

Report is provided for information only

Background

This report has been prepared to consolidate the information on sun protection at the Atlas Tube Centre (ATC) splash pad.

At the November 25, 2019 Council Meeting, Council discussed the amount proposed in the 2020 Budget to develop sun protection structures at the ATC splash pad. The following motions took place.

Motion 526-11-2019

Direct administration to close the Atlas Tube Centre splash pad temporarily and to install a temporary barrier to prevent persons from touching the glass; and that Administration be directed to bring back a report regarding barriers.

Motion Lost

Motion 527-11-2019

Direct Administration to remove the proposed \$170,000 for the sun protection for Splash Pad at the Atlas Tube Centre.

Carried

Motion 528-11-2019

Direct Administration to bring back the previous report regarding sun protection for the Atlas Tube Centre splash pad for Council's consideration.

Carried

It is noted that review of this matter was under the 2019 and 2020 Budget discussions. No report was prepared.

Splash Pad Structure

The splash pad was constructed at the same time as the Aquatic wing of the ATC in 2016. It is a cement structure immediately adjacent to the south east side of the building. It is used in the summer for interactive water play. It is approximately 600 square metres in area (6,460 square feet). Attachment 1 shows air photos of the existing splash pad.

Administration is unable to find any design drawings that indicate a permanent shade solution was originally proposed for the splash pad. Two renderings show umbrellas attached to tables (Attachments 2 and 3).

It is noted that the investment to build the splash pad at the time the aquatic centre was constructed was approximately \$664,000. The splash pad was included in the ATC grant application and funding was received for this structure. If the Town decided to decommission the splash pad, it would trigger a repayment of some of the grant funding, and therefore it is not recommended.

Complaints Regarding Sun and Heat

There are no operational issues reported with the water system/usability of the splash pad. However, the Town has received significant feedback from the public on the usability of the splash pad due to the lack of shade during the hot summer days when the sun reflects off of the cement pad. Town staff have also become aware that the glass on the wall separating the pool and the splash pad can also warm to the point of posing a burn risk should users touch it or lean against it. Town staff were aware of this risk and were vigilant in telling children (for example, at the day camp) to not touch the glass. However, it is difficult to effectively warn users when staff are not present.

Comments

The Town has made a significant financial investment to construct the splash pad and it provides an interactive play space which compliments other ATC activities. A cost effective permanent solution to provide sun protection is important to ensure that it is an inviting and safe space that can be used to its full potential. There is also an increased awareness of the importance of providing shade to protect adults and children from sunburn.

The ATC Park Plan program is underway, with proposals for the use of the ATC property to be considered by Council later in 2020. However, it is unlikely that the Park Plan would recommend that the Splash Pad be relocated or removed, as it is an existing structure. Therefore, Administration will proceed to obtain solutions for sun protection in advance of the ATC Park Plan being finalized.

Previous Sun Shade Proposals

Umbrellas:

The operational costs of daily set up and take down, and potential damage due to storm events, is a consideration if the Town were to install tables and umbrellas as was the solution shown in the original renderings (Attachments 2 and 3).

The proposals included in the 2019 and 2020 budgets are set out below.

Option 1 - Hard Roofed Structures (Attachment 4)

This proposal includes the installation of two permanent structures with metal roofs. The dimensions are 16 x 60 feet and 6 x 26 feet. It is noted that the structures in the illustration would be appropriately designed to complement the architectural features of the ATC. This option would be oriented to provide a high degree of shade relief for the public and provide a permanent solution with minimal operational costs. The option is priced at \$135,600 with HST and installation included.

Option 2 – Cantilever Umbrellas over the Splash Pad (Attachments 5 and 6)

This proposal includes the installation of five cantilever umbrella structures with glide rails. Each umbrella is 20 feet x 20 feet by 10 feet high. This option is priced at \$83,500 with HST and installation included.

Both Options 1 and 2, as well as umbrellas attached to tables, may not provide a solution to prevent the glass from heating up in the sunlight.

Option 3 – Pole and Sail Shading and a hard barrier along the glass (Attachments 7 and 8 for illustrative purposes). This option includes of Sails held up by 6 posts, 2 on the pad area and 4 on the perimeter and a metal barrier to shield people from touching the glass. The sails and poles were estimated at \$210,000 and the barrier was estimated at \$60,000 (installation included but no HST). The total was \$270,000. This estimate was provided by JP Thompson Architects Limited. A total of \$100,000 was included in the 2019 budget therefore \$170,000 was included in the 2020 budget to bring the total to \$270,000. As mentioned above, the increase of \$170,000 was not approved by Council in the 2020 budget.

Other Options and Conclusion

Administration has undertaken preliminary research into the use of external blinds which can be pulled down to shield the glass from the sun. This could possibly be an effective solution to shield the glass on hot days, which can be retracted on cloudy days and during the off-seasons, to allow an unobstructed view in the indoor pool area. As well, a different type of window film may be a solution to reduce the heat on the glass. Solutions could be paired with the development of one of the shade structure options.

To reduce the costs, the use of one of the two permanent structures (Option 1) or fewer cantilevered umbrellas (Option 2) could be explored. Administration recommends seeking professional advice on the ideal orientation of (a) structure(s) to provide maximum sun protection, and to shield the glass so that it does not heat up in the sunlight. If there is no effective way to shield the glass, a physical barrier to prevent contact with the glass would need to be proposed.

Administration will proceed to issue a request for proposal to provide options for sun protection. Administration will provide a report to Council if the estimated costs provided through the request for proposal process exceeds the budgeted amount of \$100,000.

Financial Impacts

\$100,000 was included in the 2019 budget for this project.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Air photos of the existing splash pad

Attachments 2 and 3 – Renderings of the Atlas Tube Centre showing umbrellas

Attachment 4 – Hard Roofed Structures

Attachments 5 and 6 – Cantilever Umbrellas

Attachment 7 – Example of Pole and Sail Shading

Attachment 8 – Example of a Picket barrier

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Sun Protection at the Atlas Tube Centre Splash Pad.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attachment 1 Air photos of the existing splash pad.pdf- Attachment 2 Rendering of the splash pad showing umbrellas.pdf- Attachment 3 Rendering from indoors showing umbrellas outdoors.pdf- Attachment 4, two hard roofed structures.pdf- Attachment 5 Umbrella Shade Structure.pdf- Attachment 6 Cantilever umbrellas.jpg- Attachment 7 Sail Shading.jpg- Attachment 8 Picket Railing System.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 5, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Rosanna Pellerito

Kristen Newman

Truper McBride