



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-154

From: Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

Date: February 25, 2021

Subject: Function 280 – Rec & Culture Facilities and Services Grants – Bylaw 2424

RECOMMENDATION #1: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board rescind third reading of Recreation and Cultural Facilities and Services Grants-in-Aid Amendment Bylaw No. 2424, 2020 given January 14, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION #2: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board give Recreation and Cultural Facilities and Services Grants-in-Aid Amendment Bylaw No. 2424, 2020, as amended to specify the boundaries of the service area to be Electoral Areas B, C, D, and E and not the entire Peace River Regional District, third reading.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On January 14, 2021, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED, AND CARRIED,

That the Regional Board give Recreation and Cultural Facilities and Services Grants-in-Aid Amendment Bylaw No. 2424, 2020, to expand the scope of Function 280, Recreation and Cultural Facilities Grants in Aid, beyond grants for operation and maintenance of recreation and cultural facilities, to add the authority to provide grants to community organizations that operate or provide recreational and cultural services, and to add the authority for grants for capital projects that enhance recreational and cultural facilities, first, second and third reading.

The bylaw was sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs seeking approval of the Inspector of Municipalities, as required prior to consideration of adoption. Ministry staff reviewed the bylaw and noted that the service area boundary indicated the entire regional district, and the participating areas were only the four electoral areas, B, C, D, and E. The service area being the entire regional district was intentionally written into the bylaw to ensure that organizations operating within member municipalities, that provide recreational and cultural services to the electoral areas, would be eligible for grants in aid to provide those services on behalf of the Peace River Regional District, in or for the electoral areas.

Ministry staff have requested that the service area boundary be amended to indicate that the service area is the electoral areas, as that is who will receive the service. Ministry staff have confirmed that, under the amended bylaw, grants in aid may be provided to organizations that operate recreation facilities, and provide recreational services to the rural areas, even if based within municipal boundaries.

The bylaw has been amended accordingly. Attached for reference is a copy of Bylaw 2424, showing the change highlighted in yellow, and the deleted service area boundary stricken. A 'clean copy' of Bylaw 2424, which will be sent to the Ministry is also attached, along with a Draft Consolidation bylaw showing the change.

As noted in the report considered January 14 when the amendment bylaw was introduced, the proposed amendment adds the authority to provide grants in aid for community organizations that offer recreational and cultural services, and the authority to provide grants in aid for capital projects that enhance recreational and cultural facilities, so long as no borrowing is required, to the function. Funding will continue to be provided through taxation revenue in the electoral areas only, and the maximum requisition has not been increased, as the existing maximum threshold provides ample funding for recreation and cultural grants. The bylaw also continued to require that the funding for facilities and services in any specific rural area, is funded directly by taxation from that area.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

Attachments:

1. Recreation and Cultural Facilities and Services Grants-in-Aid Amendment Bylaw No. 2424, 2020 (marked up)
2. Recreation and Cultural Facilities and Services Grants-in-Aid Amendment Bylaw No. 2424, 2020 (clean copy)
3. Draft Consolidated Recreation and Cultural Facilities and Services Grant in Aid Bylaw

External Links:

1. [Function 280 – Recreation and Cultural Facilities Grants – ADM-BRD-112](#) – See Item 11.3