Village of Rycroft
Request for Decision

Council Meeting Date: November 6, 2024

TOPIC: Removal of Aged Trees at Kin Park/Ball Park

CAO RECOMMENDATION: That Council provide direction to Administration on how to proceed.

BACKGROUND: During a regular inspection at Kin Park, Public Works noticed that most of the Black Poplar are showing signs of age with dead branches, rotten cores, large roots at the surface, and heavy leaf litter. The safety to residents and users of the park has become a concern along with liability issues if someone were to be injured.

During the October 17th Strategic Planning meeting, Council indicated that they agreed with the concerns that were brought forward and their hope was to save any tree that was still healthy. After further discussion with tree removal contractors, all parties feel that the best option is to remove all the trees. The contractors would need to requote if only removing a portion. Also, there is no guarantee how long the remaining trees will last, and we may be in the same position in a short time. Removing them all takes away all safety hazards and opens that area to a clean slate for further development.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:
Quote #1 – Jarvis Tree Removal of all 14 trees, $11,480
Quote #2 – Alliance Tree & Stump Removal Inc, $16,300
Quotes include bucking the wood into desired lengths and mulching other material. Both would be left in piles for residents to use free of charge.

With the tree removal, Council should also budget an extra $7,000 (14 trees x $500) in the 2025 operational budget to replant new trees in that same park. Also, there are currently FCM/Green Municipal Fund Grants available, and Administration should look into applying for that funding.

POLICY AND/OR LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS: This was unbudgeted funds in 2024.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:
- Council could choose to only remove dead trees and trim back the remaining trees.
- Council could do nothing and leave it to nature.

ATTACHMENTS: None

Tanis Vinck — November 6, 2024

Acting Chief Administrative Officer — **Date**