

# CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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May 12, 2016

*FINAL, COMMITTEE-APPROVED VERSION*

*This version reflects the revisions and approval of the COG Parks Capital Committee on May 12.*

TO: COG Executive Committee

FROM: Tom Daubert, Parks Capital Committee Chair

SUBJECT: 2017 COG Priorities – Results of the **COG Parks Capital Committee**

**Introduction:** The discussion to respond to the questions below began during the March 10, 2016 Joint Meeting with the Centre Region Parks and Recreation (CRPR) Authority Board. On April 14 the Committee made revisions to the draft response and approved the information below. While these responses reflect the priorities of the COG Parks Capital Committee, the goal of each group remains the same – to provide quality parks and recreation services in a cost-effective manner on behalf of the five participating municipalities. The following factors have contributed to some shared processes with the Authority to meet that common goal: (1) the capital and operational costs of the regional projects, (2) the extended duration of constructing these projects, and (3) the teamwork necessary to reach that goal. Overall:

- The Committee members represent the municipal owners and primary funding partners;
- The Authority is responsible for developing and operating the parks and recreation programs on behalf of the municipalities represented by the Committee.

## **The questions from the General Forum were:**

### **A. What does the Committee believe that its priorities should be?**

The committee felt that the 4 topics listed in the 2008 “*Committee Charge*” items still apply until the “Phase 1 Regional Park Package” construction is complete at Whitehall Road Regional Park.

However, the second topic of the charge will be the primary focus for the next 2-3 years, “*To develop and recommend a funding strategy for the planning, development, and operation of regional park facilities to the General Forum*” with the following priorities:

1. To work with the Authority on the final planning and bid processes for the Phase 1 facilities at Whitehall Road Regional Park per the approved financing,
2. To assist the Authority in overseeing efficient operations of the regional park facilities with respect to capital projects,
3. To explore how to proceed with the funding for those Phase 1 facilities that were removed from the planned construction to meet the approved budgets, including the Centralized Parks Maintenance Facility,
4. During 2017 begin to develop a Regional Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan (as introduced in the COG 2016 Program Plan) that should be based upon the new [Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\)](#) as well as municipal and community priorities. The Committee felt that this plan will be critical before any of the proposed Phase 2 projects move forward at the regional parks. The Phase 2 funding plan should be

a key element of comprehensive plan. State funding assistance would likely be available to assist with the cost of developing the plan, although this would require an April 2017 grant application for a 2018 study.

**B. How does the Committee believe that those priorities should be ranked in terms of importance for the upcoming 2017 budget?**

**Based upon the priorities above:**

1. Work with the Authority on the final planning and bid processes for the Phase 1 facilities at Whitehall Road Regional Park,
2. Start the process to prepare a Regional P&R Comprehensive Plan,
3. Assist the Authority in overseeing efficient operations of the regional park facilities with respect to capital projects,
4. Explore how to proceed with the funding for those Phase 1 facilities that that were removed from the planned construction to meet the approved budgets,

**C. Does the Committee believe that there are services / projects that it may not be doing that it should be doing?**

Complete the long-term Regional Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan in 2018.

**D. Does the Committee believe that there are services/projects that it is doing that it should stop doing or do at a reduced level?**

Given the resident and municipal support for these projects, The Committee felt that there are no services/projects that should stopped or scaled back at this time.

**E. Does the Committee believe that there are services/projects that it should do differently?**

No.

- a. We should continue working with the CRPR Authority Board to provide effective services while controlling municipal costs.
- b. We should continue to evaluate future projects in terms of future maintenance costs and revenue opportunities (that information was evaluated in each Master Site Plan Reports for each regional park).