REPORT

SIOUX LOOKOUT
Hub of the North

MEETING TYPE: Regular Council Meeting

To:	Council
From:	Brian P. MacKinnon, Chief Administrative Officer & Municipal Clerk
Date:	June 18, 2025
Subject:	Delegation Request - Sioux Lookout Soccer League - Follow-up
Report No.:	2025-591

TITLE: Delegation Request - Sioux Lookout Soccer League - Follow-up

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council directs staff to await feedback and confirmation from the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) regarding the potential for Municipal financial support to assist with improvements to the Sioux Mountain Public School soccer field; and further,

THAT Council approves up to $10,000 in funding, to be funded from the Municipality's portion of the Municipal Accommodation Tax, to support required upgrades to the Sioux Mountain Public School soccer field, should the KPDSB be supportive of this course of action.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this recommendation is to update Council on efforts to engage with the KPDSB, at the request of the Sioux Lookout Soccer League, to arrange cooperative efforts to improve the soccer field conditions at the Sioux Mountain Public School (SMPS).

BACKGROUND:

The Sioux Lookout Soccer League (SLSL) presented as as Delegation to Council at the May 21, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. The League's requests can be summarized in two parts:

- Part 1 - immediate action (support) to bring the Sioux Mountain Public School soccer field back to a safe, usable condition;
- Part 2 - consideration of a new soccer field (perhaps complex, potentially with indoor facilities), in light of the fact that the former Queen Elizabeth District High School soccer field will be taken out of commission starting in 2026.

Council directed staff to work with the League and the School Board to determine costs and effort required to bring the field back to a safe, usable condition.

Council also directed staff to undertake research with regard to the "Part 2" request, with a Staff Report to follow at a future Council Meeting.

DISCUSSION:

The Sioux Lookout Soccer League has been extremely helpful and cooperative in working towards a solution. Staff has obtained a suggested restoration plan, most of which is costed (but some elements - including equipment rental and labour (some of which could be covered by volunteers). The plan costs total $6,700, again, this does not include specific equipment rentals or labour, and no contingency, hence, staff's recommendation that the Municipality agree to contribute up to $10,000 for field repairs. The SLSL's proposed restoration is attached to this report.

Staff have reached out to the KPDSB to seek their involvement, approval, and support for such restoration work. The School Board's response can be summarized in the following excerpts from email exchanges between Municipal and Board administration:

- "I have been assured by our Facilities department that the field at Sioux Mountain is ‘useable’. It is currently available on our Community Use Permits for booking. It may not suitable for professional use, nor for OFSSA games, however, it is acceptable for municipal league use as well as high school practice."
- "We are happy to continue the fertilizer and seed patch maintenance on the pitch. We cannot contribute any monies at this time to build a professional grade soccer pitch as the Board does not have adequate School Condition Improvement or Renewal funds."

Staff communicated back to clarify that we are seeking permission to work with the KPDSB and the SLSL to improve the field. Staff also suggested that there was a considerable "gap in assessment" of the condition of the field by the Board and the League, and suggested a meeting between those parties in hopes of arriving at a mutual understanding with respect to the appropriate/safe requirements of the SMPS field. As of the time of filing this report (June 12th), there has been no further response from the School Board.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:

Strategic Priority: Community Innovation and Development

- Strategic Goal: Collaborate with community partners to foster growth and economic development
- Strategic Action: Work with local partners to promote and encourage tourism

While upgraded soccer fields would be of tremendous benefit to local users, they could also be incorporated into future sports tourism initiatives/events.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

If the School Board is amenable to working with the Municipality and the SLSL to make improvements to the SMPS soccer field, staff is recommending a contribution of up to $10,000 towards the initiative, to be funded from the Municipality's share of the Municipal Accommodation Tax.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2025-05-27 SMPS Field Resotration Plan - per SLSL.pdf

Written By:
Brian P. MacKinnon, Chief Administrative Officer & Municipal Clerk

Approved By:
Brian P. MacKinnon, CAO/Municipal Clerk