

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

DATE: _____ RESOLUTION NO. _____

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR: _____

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR: _____

WHEREAS the Virgil Skate Park project received initial budget approval in early 2018, and additional budget approval from Council in 2020;

AND WHEREAS this project includes a significant investment from the Virgil Business Association, who do great work in the Niagara-on-the-Lake community and were given the opportunity to provide input on location of the Skate Park;

AND WHEREAS public consultation on this project, including location, occurred through an Open House and the Town's Join the Conversation application;

AND WHEREAS contract initiation and vendor selection was approved by Council in 2020;

AND WHEREAS construction of the Skate Park has advanced significantly this year, and is nearing completion;

AND WHEREAS resident concerns have recently been raised regarding the location of the Skate Park, how this location was chosen, potential impact on nearby residences and surrounding recreational infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS Council was not provided an opportunity to consider formal options or recommendations on the location of the Skate Park in a staff report or as part of the 2020 budget submission, and did not receive an analysis of public feedback on location with the benefit of perspective and expertise from staff in a formal report, before contract approval and initiation of construction was approved;

AND WHEREAS Council has a duty to represent the concerns of residents, and ensure that public funds are invested effectively, including the creation of new recreational infrastructure, and wishes to consider and deliberate publicly on any potential community impacts that may be related to the location of Town facilities and structures;

AND WHEREAS Council's direct and formal participation in decision-making regarding

the location of any new recreational or other Town facilities would be very beneficial in fulfilling this interest.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Following completion of Virgil Skate Park construction, staff meet with nearby residents for a discussion and to hear feedback about this project, and send a written invitation to this meeting for all residents living in the immediate area, and share a summary of feedback and suggested outcomes with Council for information;
2. Staff prepare a 2021 Capital Budget submission to add landscaping and buffering features to the structure, such as a surrounding berm and tree plantings along the South-East side, to delineate the Skate Park from nearby recreational facilities and in direct response to any public input received following current project completion;
3. Future projects to construct new Town facilities and structures, expand existing facilities or make a significant change in use for existing Town facilities, where location is an issue and alternative or new locations are under consideration, be brought to Council's attention with formal report or highlighted in initial budget submissions for consideration by Council as early as possible in the project planning process, and that Council be formally engaged on matters related to facility location through staff reports, budget submissions and information items.