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STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Report No. 85-2019

Date: November 12, 2019

From: Matthew Armstrong, Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer

RE: 2020 Project Planning Public Survey Results

Recommendation:

For information.

Background/Analysis:

A public survey was undertaken to elicit the public's feedback on the capital and operational projects for the 2020 Budget.

The survey period was open for two week and resulted in 197 survey responses. This is nearly double the number of responses that were obtained in 2017 for the 2018 Project ideas.

- 69% of the respondent's live in Prescott
- There was a broad spectrum of ages represented from 18 to over 65
- 81% of the respondent's are in Prescott everyday
- 69% live in Prescott, 83% shop in Prescott, 66% take advantage of a Town Recreational Facility, and 84% eat at a restaurant in Prescott
- 62% would like to see the Town focus on a mixture of current and new facilities and infrastructure



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- The focus of 48% skew towards a focus on current facilities, 19% would focus evenly between current and new facilities and 33% would skew towards focusing on new facilities
- 42% would pay for Town projects by putting money aside each year into a reserve fund, while 45% would use a mixture of savings and debt
- When purchasing equipment, 83% would review each case independently and make the best possible decision based on useful life, cost, and features, when deciding to purchase new or used equipment
- 43% would focus on projects that address needs, while 53% would focus on a combination of both needs and wants
- 68% would lean towards addressing needs, 20% would split evenly between addressing needs and wants and 12% would lean towards addressing wants
- Repurposing and renovating the old Water Treatment Plant Building was a project respondent's would like to see worked on in 2020

The top 10 Recreation, Tourism and Heritage Projects:

Project	Votes	Rank
Create a downtown revitalization fund for yearly	100	1
improvements		
Install solar lighting along the heritage trail	73	2
Establish a dog park	72	3
Rejuvenation of Kriska Ball Fields	61	4
Expand the beach	56	5
Replacement and upgrades to park play structures on a yearly basis	48	6
Establish a formal pathway from the corner of	47	7
MacKenzie/Fischl to the Grocery Store / Canadian Tire		
Install linkages and wayfinding for walking paths	39	8
Add new shelter / gazebo in Centennial Park	38	9
Paving of Heritage Trail	37	10



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The top 10 Infrastructure, Building, and Equipment Projects:

Project	Votes	Rank
Accessible sidewalks and crosswalks	84	1
Complete the transition to LED streetlights	73	2
Upgrades and Reinforcement of the break wall along the waterfront	64	3
Make the sidewalks / curbs at Edward and Water Street accessible	61	4
Make the sidewalk / curb at Walker House on King Street accessible	49	5
Add an asphalt hot box trailer to improve winter pot hole repairs	43	6
Replacement of sidewalk plow	41	7
Add a backpack sanding unit to the sidewalk plow	41	8
Repair of Museum Walls	36	9
Repaving of parking lot behind Walker House	35	10

- Respondents would spend 61% of \$1,000,000 on Infrastructure, Buildings and Equipment and 39% on Recreation, Culture, and Heritage Assets
- 57% of respondents use social media as their primary source, to keep up to date on Council decisions
- 98% appreciated the opportunity to provide input
- 70% thought the survey was just about the right length, while 15% thought it was too long

The next steps will be for Members of Council to identify their top 15 projects for 2020 so that the items identified can be received on December 2, 2019 along with the priorities from staff. The three sources of priorities (public, Council, staff) will be compared to establish a focus for the 2020 Capital and Operational Projects listing.



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Financial Implications

There are no financial implications at this time.

Attachments:

2020 Project Planning Presentation

Submitted by

Matthew Armstrong Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer