

# Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Town Council Chambers

## **Present**

Councilor Mary Farrell, Chair

Councilor Donnie MacInnis

K. Moores, Community Representative

K. MacGillivray, Community Representative

T. Cameron, Director of Recreation and Special Events

E. Stephenson, Active Living Coordinator

## **Absent With Regrets**

Councilor Jack MacPherson

## **Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

## **Approval of Agenda**

“It was moved and seconded that the Agenda for the Recreation Committee meeting of December 6th, 2017 be approved. Moved by Councilor Donnie MacInnis. Seconded by K. Moores. **Motion carried.**”

## **Approval of Minutes**

“It was moved and seconded that the Minutes for the Recreation Committee meeting of November 1st, 2017 be approved.” Moved by Councilor K MacGillivray. Seconded by K. Moores. **Motion carried.**”

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- 1) Field of Dreams Update: T Cameron along with the Ball Field users are continuing to move forward with the project. Through the Planning Assistance grant from the Province, we are able to hire a consultant who will pull all the necessary information and costs in order to complete the grant applications. The First phase in the Jays Care Grant application has been successful and so we are moving on to the second phase. We will also be applying for the Canadian Tire Jump Start Accessible Facilities Funding which has the potential to fund a project up to 1.5 million.
- 2) Age Friendly Grant: The Age Friendly Grant has been submitted. This grant if successful will provide benches and game tables in strategic locations. This locations will coincide with Seniors residences and the Transit bus stops.

3) Christmas Parade Tree Lighting:

Tricia's notes: From all accounts the Parade and Tree Lighting events were very successful. The fireworks were a big hit and should be repeated again next year. The tree at Chisholm Park was beautiful as well. The cost for the second tree was approximately \$800. Options for the Chisholm Park tree: Status Quo or decorate the existing tree with colored Christmas lights. Discussion on this topic will be added to the next Recreation agenda

Emily's notes: E. Stephenson noted that games at tennis courts saw over 130 kids. Estimate is approximately 200 people (children and parents) came through the tennis courts in the hour they were on. Next year we could use even more people if we get good weather again! We had 13 people and could have had enough work for 20 people.

4) Spike Fund Update: E. Stephenson noted that a meeting with Antigonish County and community stakeholders around the idea of the Spike Fund resulted in the suggestion from the Province that we should first explore the idea of an Affordable Access to Recreation policy. The Provincial Representative, Rae Gunn, said she would send resources that we will review to see if this idea is worth exploring.

**ACTION:** E. Stephenson to review these resources when they are sent from Province.

5) Trail Naming Update: E. Stephenson brought forward the names that were submitted in the St. Bean Lane/Maple Drive trail naming contest.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to recommend the name of the trail be officially recognized as "Tilly Walsh Trail" to Council at the December Council Meeting. Moved by Councilor Mary Farrell. Seconded by K. MacGillivray. **Motion carried.**

**Action:** Councilor Mary Farrell to bring the motion to Council at the December meeting.

6) Outdoor Rink Update: E. Stephenson noted that a volunteer meeting has been set for Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, logistics and timelines for the rink will be discussed. The rink kit arrived and lumber was donated by Kent (over \$500 worth of lumber). Once the meeting takes place, E. Stephenson noted we would have a better idea on timeline for starting the project (before vs. after New Year).

## New Business

- 1) Capital Projects 2018-19: Field of Dreams – Funds to support the up-grades at the Regional Ball Field will be added into the 2018 Capital budget;
- 2) Council Update Highlights:

### Recreation Director (T. Cameron):

- Update on grants:
  1. **The Keep Well Antigonish project** has been submitted for funding from the Community Health Board and the Department of Seniors Age-Friendly grant. We have provided a letter of support for both proposals.
  2. **Canada Day Grant:** The 2018 Canada Day application to Heritage Canada has been received.

3. **Age Friendly Grant Application:** Although I have received notification that the application has been received, I have received no feed-back to date on the status of the grant;
  4. **Planning Assistance Grant:** Our Planning Assistance application has been successful. This will enable us to hire on a firm or individual who will prepare the grant applications for the Field of Dreams project.
- **Asset management:** Emily and I attended the follow-up Asset Management presentation in Elmsdale. Take-away for the day: We learned where to begin if we move forward in putting a plan in place for Recreation. We also learned that there are funding options for Municipalities who embark on up-dating their existing plan.
  - **Special events:**
    1. **Events Antigonish:** The Events Antigonish group continues to meet to discuss dates for 2018. Discussion has taken place on which events will be held to coincide with the Special Olympics. At this point there will be an Art Fair on Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
    2. **Canada 150:** The Canada 150 Baby Program is coming to a close. The certificates will be mailed out in early January and a draw will take place for \$200 worth of Baby items.
    3. **2018 National Special Olympics:** Councilor Mary Farrell, Carla Gillis (St FX) and I, have continued to meet to discuss the opening ceremonies for the National Games. We presented our ideas to organizers Mike Greek and Matt Quinn. Both were impressed with the line-up for the opening ceremonies.
    4. **2019 Provincial 55+ Games:** We are in the process of identifying the Host Committee which will be responsible for planning and operating the games. The Host Committee will be composed of: a Chair (or two Vice Chairs); a representative from both Municipal Recreation Departments; a representative from DEANS; and various community members. Sub-committees will include: Sponsorship/partnership; Volunteers; Marketing and Communication; Finances; Souvenir Program; Trade Show; Registration; Opening and closing ceremonies and entertainment; and Sports.
  - **Event planning manual:** The manual is being up-dated to reflect changes in Town of Antigonish Policy and Procedures ie hanging of banners and flag.

### **Active Living Coordinator (E. Stephenson):**

**Facility Access Program:** E. Stephenson noted pamphlets were distributed to children in local schools, our Mayor recorded radio ads that have been playing this week, and our Facebook ads have promoted and will continue to promote these activities. The big “kick off” to the whole winter of activities is this Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:30PM-6:30 PM at the Antigonish Arena. This will be a skating party that is funded by the federal government. There will be skating, adapted equipment demonstrations, snacks, crafts, music, and mascots. All are welcome to attend. This

event is being done in partnership with Antigonish County and Kids First. MP Sean Fraser thinks he will be able to stop by the event.

**After School Programs:** E. Stephenson noted that after school programming will be wrapping up over the next week and will start again in the New Year.

**Active Transportation Update:** E. Stephenson noted that she looked at the asset management plans for various areas, but held off on moving forward with too much research until after attending some asset management workshops. At the workshop we most recently attended (December 5<sup>th</sup>) the focus was mostly on Public Works infrastructure, but it is evident that there is a lot more work and research to do to create an asset management plan. This will be necessary before moving forward with many new projects.

**Solstice Walk:** The Solstice Walk & Roll event is scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup> from the RK MacDonald Nursing Home. Prior to the event, there will be 3 workshops where folks can make lanterns that they can bring to the event itself. It will be free of charge and all are welcome. There will be glow sticks provided on the night of for anyone who doesn't have a lantern made.

3) National Special Olympics 2018 Update: Councilor M. Farrell gave an update on the role she will play with the Opening and Closing ceremonies for the National Special Olympics, summer 2018. She encouraged committee members to take on roles and help find others to play roles.

4) 55+ Provincial Games Bid:

### **Motion to Adjourn**

"It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Next meeting: to be held on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Council Chambers.