

Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

February 7th, 2018

Town Council Chambers

Present

Councilor Mary Farrell, Chair

Councilor Donnie MacInnis

Councilor Jack MacPherson

K. MacGillivray, Community Representative

T. Cameron, Director of Recreation and Special Events

E. Stephenson, Active Living Coordinator

Absent With Regrets

K. Moores, Community Representative

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 February 7th, 2018 be approved. Moved by Councilor Donnie MacInnis. Seconded Councilor J. MacPherson. **Motion carried.**”

Approval of Minutes

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

Business Arising from the Minutes

- 1) Spike Fund Update: E. Stephenson noted that documents were sent from the Province in January on the concept of “affordable access to recreation policies”. Documents have been reviewed and Stephenson noted she sees why an affordable access to recreation policy could be beneficial. The “Spike Fund” as previously discussed would fit within the policy, but would not be the only part to it. Pursuing the policy route would take at least a half year to work through according to this documents provided, but a policy would allow for a more sustainable set up going forward instead of “ad hoc” solutions. County has been part of these initial discussions and they are a key partner. At this time, it makes the most sense to allow them to also review the documents and decide their thoughts before we move forward. **Action:** E. Stephenson to check in with County to see their thoughts after review of the documents provided.
- 2) Outdoor Rink Update: E. Stephenson noted there have been 0 skateable days at the rink so far. So far the cost of the project (rink kit, water, shovels, tape) is \$2,800. Using

the costing of a regular arena (~\$145/hour based on recent rentals) we would need 19-20 hours of skating out of the rink to make it cost effective. The doesn't take into consideration the huge number of hours that have been spent voluntarily and by staff at the ice putting in time. As it stands, E. Stephenson's recommendation for next year would be not to pursue the project again unless several days of skating are had before the end of winter. Stephenson noted the weather has not been on the project's side and a professor who studies outdoor rinks and climate change at Wilfred Laurier University didn't predict it would get any better over the next decade. With the current resources there was nothing more that could have done as staff or volunteers to change the status at this point. E. Stephenson suggested some guaranteed free ice time or gym time in the winter might be a better use for this money. Councilor M. Farrell noted that perhaps a winter event at Columbus Field would be possible instead.

- 3) Field of Dreams Update: T. Cameron noted that Laura Duggan has done some work for grants for the Town regarding ball fields near Regional High School. The Town has applied for several grants along with field users. T. Cameron directed committee through a presentation of proposed changes to the fields. Councilor D. MacInnis questioned when the Town would hear back on the grants, T. Cameron noted it would likely be April and that work will have to start very shortly after getting confirmation in April/May.

New Business

- 1) Capital Projects 2018-19: Field of Dreams, Playground Capital: Field of Dreams information as noted above. T. Cameron noted playground funding is needed annually to keep playgrounds up to date. In previous years there had been \$10,000 for this purpose and this money is needed.
- 2) Council Update Highlights:

Recreation Director (T. Cameron):

-T. Cameron noted that all final grant reports were submitted. She has sent an email to let grant recipients know that new grant applications are out and will send one more reminder.

-T. Cameron noted that an asset management plan is needed and that former employee Matt Hull has expertise that he could use to come back and help get started with inventory of assets. T. Cameron noted that councilors will notice the ask for this in the budget. E. Stephenson noted that discussions with Public Works will help to ensure consistency of asset management practices between departments.

-T. Cameron noted that the Special Events Committee will be doing a press release of the events calendar.

-T. Cameron noted that she has finished the 2nd draft of the Event Planning Manual and that J. MacDougall is looking at this before T. Cameron can complete the 3rd draft.

-T. Cameron noted that the Volunteer of the Year has been awarded and that the volunteer chosen has agreed to accept the award. The youth volunteer of the year has 1 nomination so far.

Active Living Coordinator (E. Stephenson):

-E. Stephenson noted that current after school programming includes yoga at 2 schools, open gym at one.

-E. Stephenson noted pickleball has been extremely popular with maxed out programming for multiple sessions this winter.

-E. Stephenson noted the Solstice Walk and Wheel took place on December 20th and only had about 15 people in attendance. There were 3 sessions in advance where people could make lanterns. Was overall fun but if it were to be done again Stephenson recommends supporting a group such as SAFE who pursued a similar event this year.

-E. Stephenson noted that the Chisholm/MacLellan pathway has been completed.

-E. Stephenson noted that the facility access program has become a staple for our community in the winter months with free skates, swims, and open gym time on weekends. Number of participants are reported as high. This gives families and individuals a free option for wintery days.

-E. Stephenson noted that she will present an annual update of the Physical Activity Strategy at the February Council meeting.

- 3) National Special Olympics 2018 Update: Councilor M. Farrell gave an update on the Opening and Closing ceremonies for the National Special Olympics, summer 2018. She noted there has been a lot of work recently on the legacy piece for the games. She would like the Town/County Councillors to be the welcoming committee. T. Cameron suggested looking at the opening ceremonies to be screened somewhere for the greater community as the capacity at St. F.X. will be limited and many people won't be able to get in.
- 4) 55+ Provincial Games Bid: The Seniors Getting Involved group isn't willing to take this on.
- 5) Walking Trails: Councilor J. MacPherson noted he wants to see the path between Church St. and Chisholm Park along the river completed. T. Cameron noted that some land ownership conflicts have prevented this. Unless the land is granted, it cannot go much further. E. Stephenson noted that on the topic of walking trails, the idea is now to put up signage on official Town trails/paths starting with Tilly Walsh Trail. Councilor J. MacPherson left the meeting. Committee members looked at 2 designs and indicated a mixture of the two would be best. **Action:** E. Stephenson to look at combining signage from wayfinding to create signage that can be used consistently on trails.

Motion to Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Next meeting: to be held on March 7th, 2018, Council Chambers.