

Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

May 17th, 2017

Town Council Chambers

Present

Councilor Mary Farrell, Chair

Councilor Donnie MacInnis,

K. Moores-Sutherland, 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 May 17th, 2017 be approved with the amendment to have “Beautification Request” and “Special Events” added.” Moved by Councilor D. MacInnis. Seconded by K. MacGillivray. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

“It was moved and seconded that the Minutes for the Recreation Committee meeting of April 5th, 2017 be approved.” Moved by Councilor D. MacInnis. Seconded by K. Moores-Sutherland. **Motion carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes

- 1) Committee Guidelines: T. Cameron received no updates from committee members on guidelines. “It was moved and seconded that the guidelines for the Recreation Committee be accepted as presented”. Moved by Councilor D. MacInnis. Seconded by K. Moores-Sutherland. **Motion carried.**
- 2) Outdoor Rink Feasibility Study: E. Stephenson noted that the Outdoor Rink feasibility study was sent to all committee members through e-mail. Councilor MacInnis clarified that the tennis courts were the suggested location for an outdoor rink, which was confirmed by E. Stephenson.
- 3) Projects from Community for Budgeting: T. Cameron reported that the only project request that was received was for a dog park from Councilor W. Cormier. A variety of location possibilities were discussed. One location suggested was the field near Ron MacGillivray’s off of St. Andrews St. T. Cameron noted that there are minor sport organizations who would benefit from this as a sports field. Councilor M. Farrell wanted

to note that if a group such as minor football were to play on the Central Turf Field that costs such as lights are \$35/hour and unable to be waived as they are a “hard” cost. Councilor D. MacInnis suggested the space across from Brendan’s Fairway as a location to explore. Councillor M. Farrell suggested that a space near the Landing would be nice. She also noted that perhaps there was an area behind the mall or the Petro Can land off of Main Street as it is not able to be developed. Arbor Drive Playground area was also discussed. T. Cameron will continue to explore areas where a dog park could go.

ACTION: T. Cameron to send the Central Turf Field schedule to committee members so that its usage rate could be viewed.

- 4) Connect 2 Grant for Sidewalk: E. Stephenson reported that the Connect 2 Grant Funding cannot be used for sidewalks.

New Business

1) Council Up-Date Highlights:

Recreation Director:

-JJ Carroll: T. Cameron gave update on the JJ Carroll fund and clarified that the fund is to be used specifically for Town of Antigonish children for swimming, track and field, and hockey as per Dr. Carroll’s wishes. The PHAST Swim Team received \$1400 and also funds are given toward training instructors for swimming. There was also \$2500 toward Wee Lads and Lassies.

-Leadership Training with the Highland Regiona Recreation Coordinators: This is an annual undertaking and details are being decided now to get student leaders trained.

-Sea Cans: T. Cameron reported that 2 new sea cans have been purchased by the Central Turf Field Group and these will be placed and used as storage for the Recreation Department and minor sport organizations and Central Turf Field. In future, a motion-sensor light and camera will be placed at these locations if possible.

-Fencing at Whidden St. Playground: T. Cameron reported that Eastern Fence is coming to fix the Whidden Street playground fence.

ACTION: T. Cameron to check with K. Proctor on the possibility of adding the Whidden Street garbage can to the Public Works route so that garbage pick-up can be year-round.

-Tennis Program: T. Cameron reported that this year changes to the tennis program include the addition of “ladies’ night” and “mens’ night”. T. Cameron also noted that the courts are in need of repair soon.

-Volunteer Recognition: T. Cameron reported that the event went well. Next year it would be good to see groups, not individuals, recognized.

Active Living Co-ordinator:

-After School Programs: E. Stephenson noted that fitness at Dr. JH Gillis is going well and that Making Tracks cycling will start soon at Antigonish Education Centre. Also there have been surveys sent to middle and high schools to engage students’ opinions around after-school programming.

- Nordic Pole Walking: E. Stephenson reported 2 successful clinics around Nordic Pole Walking. One for leaders which attracted 9 participants and another for general public which saw 35 participants.
- Multisport: E. Stephenson reported that the Multisport program finished for the year and that plans for next year have started already.
- 55+ Games: E. Stephenson noted that the Antigonish 55+ Games will be held on June 9th and 10th this year and that student Jenny Bowie is on staff until the completion of the games.
- Chisholm Street: Surveying was done at both Chisholm Street and Gillis Way to get a scope of the land in each area. Engineers at Strum Consulting suggest the slope of the Chisholm Street path be reduced significantly (currently at 22.5 % needs to be closer to 8%). E. Stephenson noted that a grant has been applied for (Connect 2) to get funding to make this change and improve the safety of the path. It was noted that the grant, if given, would not be approved until Council approves the Town budget.

Maintenance:

- U-12 Field: T.Cameron noted that the "U-12" field at the Regional High School has been damaged by a vehicle and cannot be played on until this has been remedied.

2) Budget Implications:

- Water Park: T. Cameron noted this is an \$87,000 project. Half has been granted by ACOA. We are waiting to see if half of the remainder will come from the province.
- Canada Day: T. Cameron noted Canada Day will be a big event this year.
- Gillis Way: E. Stephenson noted that this year spending should be focused on getting a plan designed for Gillis Way so that it is ready to be done next year.
- Chisholm Street Pathway: E. Stephenson noted that this project is estimated at \$20,000 and that \$10,000 has been requested in the budget.
- ACTION: E. Stephenson to send the Municipality of Argyle draft Active Transportation list of projects to illustrate hopes for a similar future document in the Town of Antigonish.
- Grand Stands: **MY NOTES ON THIS ARE NOT GOOD...**
- Multisport: E. Stephenson wanted to note that funding requested for multisport is expected to be covered by registration costs.
- Open Gym: E. Stephenson noted that the Province gives money each year for opening up facilities. This past winter the Town and County opened up gyms each Sunday in February and people would like to see more of it. The \$1300 requested in the budget would help to run another month of this program free for the community.
- March Break Programming: E. Stephenson noted that March Break programming will be planned for next year. The programs will cost, but to keep fees reasonable a \$1000 unrecovered ask has been requested in the budget.

3) Beautification Request:

- T. Cameron noted that the Beautification Committee would like to see all Christmas decorations (wreaths, Christmas Trees) taken down by February 1st. T. Cameron noted

the issues that this presents in that these items may be hard to get to depending on snowfall levels. Councilor D. MacInnis noted that taking lights down in cold weather could damage the lights. Councilor M. Farrell suggested that perhaps the trees could be decorated to suit the season (i.e. hearts on the trees in February for Valentine's Day).

4) Special Events:

-T. Cameron noted that S. Feist, former CAO, intended for T. Cameron to ensure that Canada Day and Christmas Events were put on, but that it seems this expectation has expanded to include all Town Events. T. Cameron noted that she is there to help groups plan events as per the Town's Event Planning Guide, not to put the events on. ACTION: Committee members were given a copy of the Event Planning Guide document to go through and make any changes necessary.

Motion to Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.