

Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

October 4th, 2017

Town Council Chambers

Present

Councilor Mary Farrell, Chair

Councilor Jack MacPherson

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 Donnie MacInnis

Also Present

Mayor Laurie Boucher

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 October 4th, 2017 be approved as presented. Moved by Councilor Jack MacPherson. Seconded by K. MacGillivray. **Motion carried.**”

Approval of Minutes

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

Business Arising from the Minutes

- 1) Field of Dreams Presentation Discussion: T. Cameron met with representatives from Antigonish Minor Baseball/Challenger Baseball. Antigonish Minor Softball representatives were invited but were not able to make the meeting. T. Cameron noted this will be an expensive project and she recommended that an RFP be put out to have a package put together to define the details and costs of the project. She noted we should keep in mind that the ball fields will be needed for upcoming special events including the National Special Olympics (summer 2018) and Provincial 55+ Games (summer 2019). She noted that Field #2 will be essential for the Special Olympics, but that Field #1 is also important as it allows the local Challenger Baseball chapter to expand.
K. Moores-Sutherland arrived at 5:25 PM.

T. Cameron reviewed the changes that have been requested by Antigonish Minor Basbeall. She noted that they entered the project into a voting competition through the Aviva Fund that opens on October 10th. T. Cameron reviewed other possible grants that could be used for the project, and made it clear that if the Town is seeking funding for a skateboard park at the same time as the field, the Town can only apply for one of the projects under a major grant with the province through the Department of Communities, Culture, and Heritage. T. Cameron noted that there is a major grant through Canadian Tire Jumpstart which would be well-suited to the project. Everything must be together to apply for this grant in early February. T. Cameron the hope is to have as much done as possible next summer.

ACTION: T. Cameron to move forward with investigating the piecing together of the field upgrade costs and logistics.

- 2) Spike Fund: E. Stephenson spoke with the Town of Kentville and learned details of their Spike Fund. The Town of Kentville puts \$300 into the fund annually, and the remainder of the fund is raised through donations by businesses and individuals. E. Stephenson noted that she feels that starting such a fund could be especially beneficial for older adults in the community who don't qualify for children/youth funding such as KidSport and Jumpstart, which are relied on heavily.

ACTION: E. Stephenson to discuss logistics of starting a program like this with the finance Department.

ACTION: All committee members to brainstorm ideas for a name for the fund.

- 3) Year-Round Garbage Pick-Up: T. Cameron noted that Public Works will be collecting the garbage next to the Columbus Field washrooms as well as the Whidden Street Park.
- 4) Water Park Project: T. Cameron noted the project came in under budget, and that ACOA gave permission to the Town to add signage and fencing as part of the project. She said that Eastern Fencing, who were supposed to install the fencing, have not yet arrived and if they don't come in time she will need to cancel the order.
- 5) Trail Development Process: E. Stephenson noted the Recreation Department will be following the process adopted from the document "Developing Recreation Trails in Nova Scotia" for the time being, and if any needed changes are noted at a later date, alterations can be made at that time.
- 6) Trail Naming Process: E. Stephenson noted that a process to name trails/paths should be adopted so that the Town can have names on trail signs / for referencing consistency. K. MacGillivray noted that it could also be helpful for emergency situations. K. MacGillivray made the following motion to brought before Council: "When a trail or pathway within the Town is completed and ready to be named, the Recreation Department will hold a community contest to develop a bank of names for that trail or pathway. Using this bank, the Recreation Department will make a name recommendation to be approved by Council. If a situation arises when there are no names submitted through the community contest, or all names are deemed

inappropriate, Council may decide to name the trail themselves or direct the Recreation Department to do so.”

ACTION: Councilor Mary Farrell to bring the above motion before Council.

- 7) Outdoor Rink Update: E. Stephenson noted that the tennis courts, which were recommended in the rink report conducted by Meg Cuming of Recreation Law, were not an appropriate location because of lack of access to an appropriate water source. The location that is now being pursued is Ball Field #1, next to the Central turf field on Braemore Avenue. The water would need to be sourced from the Strait Regional School Board’s privately owned fire hydrant, and so the Recreation Department is waiting on permission from the board to move forward with that location.

New Business

- 1) Recreation Director (T. Cameron)

Capital Projects for 2018: T. Cameron noted that there are several major capital projects to be done in the near future including: ball field updates, tennis courts need work, \$10,000 for playground equipment maintenance/replenishment was removed from the budget several years ago and is needed to keep up with playgrounds, Gillis Way needs updating. T. Cameron asked committee members to think whether there were other items they would like to see. Councilor M. Farrell noted that she would like to see outdoor fitness equipment and benches reinstalled on Main Street. Mayor L. Boucher noted she would like to see picnic tables and swings in Chisholm Park that glow and make music when they are used, as seen in Montreal.

ACTION: All committee members to come to the November meeting with ideas for capital projects that should be added to the list for prioritization.

Seniors Fitness at Club 60: T. Cameron noted that there are several participants in the Club 60 Fitness Class who refuse to pay or register for the class. The cost of the class is \$48.00. Councilor M. Farrell suggested perhaps a letter could be sent out to participants to explain the situation. T. Cameron noted she went in person to tell the class and was ignored.

ACTION: T. Cameron to continue to explore options for collecting registrations and payments from this group.

Keep Well Antigonish: T. Cameron noted she has been working with a group of stakeholders who are preparing to submit a grant to the Community Health Board which will help to keep seniors in their homes by providing free exercise and education on well-being.

- 2) Active Living Coordinator (E. Stephenson)

Fall Updates:

-Multisport and Highland Touch Football are ongoing

-After school meetings have taken place with junior and high school, elementary school this week. Most plans are set, though we are still waiting on confirmation from Department of Education funding.

-55+ Pickleball is at 18/20 maximum and is taking place Wednesdays from 11:15 AM – 12:45 PM at STFX Main Gymnasium. Cost is \$40.

-Facility Access Funding: in the past there was always \$15,000 to be used between Town and County for this program. With a cut back to \$10,000 schedules have been re-worked and the new hopeful start date is December 10th until March Break. The season would kick-off with a holiday skating party. In partnership with the County, Paqntkek, and Kids First, the Town applied for a Canada 150 Skating Party grant for \$1000. The hope is to hear back from that soon.

-The design for the Chisholm/MacLellan path is not yet complete. Tender will be released as soon as design is received.

-E. Stephenson noted she has been reviewing the Active Transportation plan created in 2014, looking at the priorities displayed in the document and weighing them against changes that have taken place since that time.

ACTION: E. Stephenson to come to the November meeting with an update on Active Transportation plans for moving forward.

3) National Special Olympics 2018 Update: T. Cameron noted that the Recreation Department will be focusing on preparing facilities for this event, and so will not have the capacity to take on the Opening Ceremonies as was explored. She noted the organizers of the event are looking for a lot of volunteers.

4) Provincial 55+ Games 2019 Update: T. Cameron officially reported to the group that Antigonish has been chosen as the site of the 2019 Provincial 55+ Games. T. Cameron noted that, unlike the Special Olympics, the Provincial 55+ Games does not have an organizing committee of their own, which will leave a lot of work to be done by the hosting partners.

Motion to Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.