



MINUTES
RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 11 2010
7:00 p.m. – City Hall, Lower Boardroom

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Jim McManaman, Chair
Councillor Pink
Tom Wiley (Councillor - Georgian Bluffs) Vice Chair
Francis Richardson (Mayor – Meaford)
Paul Foster
Gayle Graham
Bob Knapp
Sharon McKeachnie
Rachelle Williams
Jean Paul Caron
- ABSENT/REGRETS:** Ryan Thompson (Councillor - Georgian Bluffs)
Mark Rouse
- GUESTS:** Ruth Ann English/Tom Hakala – Tom Thomson Trail Group
Michael Warren, Regional Recreation Centre
Evan Ewasko – Transcontinental Printing - RBW Graphics
- STAFF PRESENT:** Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
John Howard, Manager of Parks and Open Space
Craig Ruppenthal, Facilities Manager
Pat Bryant, Community Services

1. CALL TO ORDER –7:05 P.M.

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services assumed the Chair. She asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Pam Coulter conducted the election and opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chair.

Councillor Pink nominated Councillor McManaman for the position of Chair who let his name stand. After asking three times, no additional nominations were put forward.

Moved by Sharon McKeachnie

“THAT the nominations for the position of Chair of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee be closed.”

Carried unanimously

Councillor McManaman assumed the position of Chair and conducted the election of Vice Chair opening the floor for nominations.

Sharon McKeachnie nominated Tom Wiley for the position of Vice Chair who let his name stand.

Moved by Sharon McKeachnie

“THAT the nominations for Vice-Chair of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee be closed.”

Carried unanimously

Tom Wiley accepted the position of Vice-Chair.

3. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

a) Report from Director of Community Services Re: Recreation Naming Policy

4. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF FOR MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES OR LISTED ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

a) **Regular Meeting – January 14, 2010**

Moved by Tom Wiley

“THAT the minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee meeting held on January 14, 2010 be hereby approved.”

Carried unanimously

Committee dealt with the Tom Thomson Trail Group deputation at this time.

7.a) Deputation – Tom Thomson Trail Group

The Chair introduced Ruth Ann English and Tom Hakala of the Tom Thomson Trail Group. Ruth Ann English provided an overview of their organization. The trail between Owen Sound and Meaford provides three season access for hiking, cycling and equestrians. In the winter, the trail is used by snowmobilers.

The Trail Group in collaboration with the Bruce Grey Trail Network is applying for an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant for the maximum \$65,000 allowable. Work includes upgrading a large section of 28th Avenue East within the City.

Genivar was retained to assess the trail and make recommendations for improvements with respect to the first 6 km of trail from the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre to Tom Thomson Lane. The cost for this section of trail work is estimated at \$91,000.

The Trail Group is requesting financial support in the amount of \$5,000 from the City for trail improvement work as well as in-kind staff resources to oversee some of the trail construction. In support of their Ontario Trillium Foundation application, a Land Use Agreement with the City would be required. This is similar to the agreements with the Scenic City Order of Good Cheer for the Splash Pad and the Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound for the Harrison Park Accessible Playground.

The Trail Group is providing some of the funds, has also applied for a grant through the TD Evergreen Fund and is anticipating in-kind donations of materials and labour to reduce the overall cost of the project.

Pam Coulter presented the staff report and stated that the City encourages partnerships and the partnership with the Tom Thomson Trail Group has been mutually beneficial. There is an existing Trail Maintenance Agreement (2006) between the City and the Trail Group. There are some minor housekeeping amendments to reflect the modified route that should be made. At present, \$5,000 is included for trail work within the 2010 capital budget. Insurance has been provided through the existing agreement.

Committee questioned the in-kind request for staff resources to oversee the capital work. This may be difficult due to the current infrastructure projects that require the resources of Engineering Services. Ms. Coulter suggested staff will consult with the Engineering Services Division regarding construction supervision and any arrangements will be reflected in the updated Trail Maintenance Agreement.

Committee requested an update regarding the status of the Hydro One corridor that had previously housed the trail.

The Chair thanked Ruth Ann English, Tom Hakala and Bob Knapp for their hard work over the past 10 years to provide trails within the City.

Moved by Sharon McKeachnie

“THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive the report from the Director of Community Services and recommend that City Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Land Use Agreement with the Tom Thomson Trail Group; and further

THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee recommend that City Council approve in principle the proposed work by the Tom Thomson Trail Group along 28th Avenue subject to the group receiving final approval from the City’s Operations Department and Community Services Department as well as obtaining necessary permits, including

but not limited to a Fill and Construction Permit from GSCA, and further

THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee request staff undertakes the necessary housekeeping amendments to the Trail Maintenance Agreement (By-law 2006-212) and that these amendments be provided to Council for approval."

Carried unanimously

Ruth Ann English and Tom Hakala left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Committee moved forward item 9. e)

9.e) Report from Director of Community Services Re: Request from RBW Regarding Walking Trail

The Chair invited Evan Ewasko of RBW Graphics to provide background information regarding the request for a walking trail. Mr. Ewasko was in attendance on behalf of Derek Smith who was unable to attend.

Mr. Ewasko advised that the original request for a bike path or sidewalk and road widening of 20th Street East was made through RBW's Wellness Committee to encourage bike or walk to work as part of their wellness plan. RBW Graphics realizes there is a cost and various issues associated with any improvements made to allow a safe route to their site. They are willing to work with the City to establish a bike/walk route and assist financially.

Pam Coulter thanked Mr. Ewasko for the background information and congratulated their employees for encouraging healthy lifestyle initiatives. Pam advised that staff investigated various options for a walking trail and outlined the routes looked at in consultation with the Engineering Division. She reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of each route that had been developed in cooperation with the City's Engineering Services Division.

The preferred route is paving the 20th Street East shoulder with some safety barricades from 9th Avenue East to RBW Graphics. The cost is estimated at \$41,000. A request should be made to include in the City's 5 year capital plan.

Pam Coulter also advised that the City contracted a traffic consultant who is undertaking a Transportation Master Plan and this issue could be included as part of the overall transportation master plan process. She noted it is important to consider moving people as well as vehicles.

Committee thought the 20th Street East alternate route was the most direct and would also provide a pedestrian route for employees of other industrial park businesses. There was concern regarding vehicular traffic on 20th Street, however, installing a bike/walking lane may encourage traffic to slow down. Design will include safety considerations to required engineering standards. Staff will request input from the Transportation Master Plan consultant on the proposed route.

Mr. Ewasko advised that Derek Smith had mentioned that he would like to see a bike lane on 20th Street East and RBW Graphics is willing to contribute financially as well as labour and/or tradespeople to offset some of the associated cost.

Moved by Tom Wiley

THAT Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive the report from the Director of Community Services dated February 9, 2010 regarding the request from The Employee Wellness Committee at Transcontinental Printing, and further

THAT Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee recommend that the City include the cost of a bicycle/pedestrian route on 20th Street East, from 9th Avenue East easterly to Transcontinental Printing; and further

THAT Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee recommend that Council request that the consultant undertaking the Transportation Master Plan review this issue and provide further input as appropriate, and further

THAT staff meet and discuss with Transcontinental Printing/RBW Graphics opportunities for partnership and financial contribution."

Carried unanimously

Evan Ewasko left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Committee dealt with the additional item regarding the Regional Recreation Centre – Policy on Naming for Donations as Mr. Warren representing the Family Y was in attendance.

The Chair introduced Michael Warren, Family Y Board appointee on the Regional Recreation Centre Steering Committee. Mr. Warren explained that both the City and Family Y have naming policies. It is recommended a special naming policy for the regional recreation centre be created for naming opportunities as donation values are at a higher than normal level. This allows the Fundraising Committee and Steering Committee to develop a schedule of naming opportunities for various levels of contribution as well as an approval process. All donation naming requests would be considered in camera by the appropriate approval authority.

The following changes were recommended to the policy:

- Title changed to "Policy for Naming Donations";
- Under Purpose, first line: "...clear guidance for naming opportunities..";
- Page 2, 3rd par.2nd line: "...with respect to each naming donation..";
- Page 2, Policy "2. The City of Owen Sound and Family Y Board...";
- Page 3, Policy "8. The Campaign Cabinet, upon receiving a proposed naming donation...".

Mr. Warren stated that the fundraising campaign is for \$5 million, and although a challenge, he is confident it will be accomplished.

Upon a question, Mr. Warren confirmed that City Council has final approval for any naming donation opportunities.

The Director of Community Services stated that a donation agreement will be drafted by the Family Y that will include donor, timing, gift details, length of agreement, etc.. An overall plan for the design and funding of the physical donor recognition will be coordinated with the architect to ensure some level of consistency commensurate with quality of the facility.

Moved by Bob Knapp

“THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive the report form the Director of Community Services dated February 8, 2010, and further

THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee recommend City Council approve the Regional Recreation Centre – Policy for Naming Donations, and further

THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee request the Campaign Committee through the Family Y prepare a drat agreement template for consideration and approval by City Council and develop a plan for the design of the physical donor recognition for approval by the Regional Recreation Centre Steering Committee and Council.”

Carried unanimously

Mr. Warren left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) Committee was advised that Council approved the minutes of the last meeting including negotiation of the Harrison Park Lease Agreement.
- b) Council approved the 2010 Capital budget which included funding for the Harrison Park Diversion Channel repair and electrical phase 2, Kelso Park Master Plan, Trails, additional soccer field, splash pad and wrought iron fencing at Greenwood Cemetery.
- c) Leash Free Dog Park – Pam Coulter updated Committee advising that a private donor has come forward who owns a significant amount of land in the downtown harbour front area. They have offered to build a dog park on 1 acre including fencing at no cost to the City. Staff has met with the individual and a site plan is being developed. Teri Van Aalst has been included in the discussions.
- d) Minor Soccer Request – Committee was advised that the request for the new field at the Kiwanis Soccer Complex was approved split over two years starting

in 2011/2012. Soil removed during construction of the new regional recreation centre will be used for the new field.

7. DEPUTATIONS

The deputations were dealt with earlier.

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED.

There was none.

9. REPORTS AND MATTERS TABLED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED.

a) Verbal Report from Chair, Steering Committee Re: Regional Recreation Centre

Councillor McManaman updated Committee on the status of the recreation centre. It is anticipated construction will commence in early March. There has been discussion regarding installation of traffic lights on 10th Street at 7th Avenue. A public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24 with the City's traffic consultant to review the proposed traffic plan.

The Municipality of Meaford has appointed Mayor Richardson to the Steering Committee.

Response to the project at a recent meeting was positive.

b) Report from Manager of Parks and Open space Re: Miniature Horse Drive Event – Harrison Park

John Howard outlined the request from the Miniature Horse Club of Ontario wishing to hold a "Fun Drive" in Harrison Park on Saturday July 17, 2010. They expect approximately 25-30 participants. The group was advised that they would have to enter into an agreement with the City as well as pay a fee of \$250 which covers staff time, garbage disposal, clean up and gate opening/closing.

Mr. Howard has subsequently received an email indicating that they are not prepared to pay the fee and withdrew the request.

Upon a question regarding funding through the City's grants budget, the Chair advised that Council has cut the budget to zero dollars for 2010.

Moved by Sharon McKeachie

"THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive the report from the Manager of Parks and Open Space dated February 1, 2010 regarding the request from the Miniature Horse Club of Ontario with

respect to a "Fun Drive" in Harrison Park on Saturday, July 17, 2010 with a rain date of Sunday, July 18, 2010."

Carried unanimously

c) Report from Manager of Parks and Open Space Re: Safe Playground Surface

The Manager of Parks and Open Space provided background information on a study recently conducted by Dr. Andrew W. Howard which compared Fibar® Engineered Wood Fibre (EWF) to Granitic Sand (GS) with respect to upper extremity, long bone injuries in Children. The study indicates there is more likelihood of injuries on Fibar®.

John Howard advised that in Canada there are no legislated standards for playgrounds. The CSA Z614 Children's Play spaces and Equipment Standard provides requirements for public-use playground equipment and playspaces intended for use by children aged 18 months to 12 years. The standard does not promote one surface material over another. According to information provided, testing of engineered wood fibre has proven it has one of the highest impact attenuations of any of the protective surfacing materials in use. The City currently uses sand and is gradually converting to engineered wood fibre (not FIBAR). Currently approximately 6-8 playgrounds are still sand based.

Playgrounds are positive environments for growth and development. It was noted that many accidents that occurred in Toronto School Board facilities occurred during the summer when the equipment was not being maintained.

Barrier free access is also a prime consideration. Sand does not provide the accessible surface that wood fibre and other surface materials do. Engineered wood fibre surface materials, when properly installed, have been recognized as a "semi-unitary" type of accessible play surface. Most municipalities are siding toward wood fibre products. The City's insurer has also been involved to ensure the City meets any legislated standards.

Moved by Francis Richardson

"THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receives for information the report from the Manager of Parks and Open Space dated February 4, 2010 prepared in response to concerns expressed in a response to a recent study on "School Playground Surfacing and Arm Fractures in Children," and recommend that this report be also forwarded to City Council for information."

Carried unanimously

Items 9. d) and e) were dealt with earlier.

f) Report from Director of Community Services Re: Hockey Canada Skills Academy Course Proposal

The Director of Community Services briefed Committee on the request from Rob Lee, Physical Education teacher at West Hill Secondary School regarding a Hockey Canada Skills Academy. The City's Strategic Plan encourages the City

to look for and evaluate opportunities for partnerships and this is an excellent opportunity to partner with a local school in the delivery of a community program. The program has the approval of the Bluewater District School Board. A similar program was delivered in Shelburne with great response.

The course is open to male and female children of different skill levels and academic achievement and ensures student access. The program is customized with emphasis on developing leadership skills in the area of coaching, refereeing and first aid.

The proposal by Mr. Lee looks to the City for price adjustments for ice time rental as well as available time for a PD day 3 on 3 tournament run by the students as part of the course. This involves 1.5 hours of ice every other day from September to end of January; approximately 23 weeks or about 50 sessions equating to approximately \$7,000 in revenue at the current minor rate.

Staff have looked at many alternatives. The City is not in a position to offer "free" ice time for the program or reduce the current rate. One option that has been discussed with Mr. Lee is to offer ice time on a PD day for the students in the program to run the 3 on 3 tournament. This would provide the program an opportunity to generate revenue and test student skills. A contract would be developed for 75 hours of ice rental at the current rate and a non-prime PD day rate at no additional charge. The contract would be reviewed after completion of the first year. This would be similar to the City contracting with the school to deliver a program for the City.

Moved by Sharon McKeachnie

"THAT in consideration of a report from the Director of Community Services, dated February 1, 2010 that Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee recommend that the City of Owen Sound support the efforts of the Bluewater District School Board, West Hill Secondary School in developing the Hockey Skills Academy for the fall of 2010 and as a partner that the City provide a contract for 23 weeks of ice during the day at the minor, non-prime rate (at the going rate) with the provision for ice time on a PD day at no additional charge as part of the overall contract; and further

THAT West Hill Secondary School provide a financial report after completion of the program; and further

THAT the contract be reviewed after the first year of operation."

Carried unanimously

g) Report from Director of Community Services Re: Waiving of Rental Fees

The Director of Community Services advised that at Council's budget meeting, Council decided not to fund any grants within the 2010 budget. However, this

would not affect Policy CS 37 where organizations are giving 100% of proceeds from their event back to the City. It is recommended the policy include a line that the City has full discretion on use of funds which allows the funds to be applied to facility rental first with the remainder targeted towards the specific project.

In the event that an event does not meet expectations and loses money, a minimum contribution equal to the facility rental is required and the organization will have to issue a cheque to the City for the facility rental.

Policy CS77 – Waiving of Rental Fees for Provincial, National and International events, where a percentage is allocated to the rental fee reduction, should not be affected as it is not out of the grants budget and the City is treated as an event sponsor.

Moved by Tom Wiley

“THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receives the report from the Director of Community Services dated February 1, 2010, regarding the policies: Waiving of Rental Fees and Waiving of Rental Fees for Provincial, National and International Events, and further

THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee approves the amendment to Policy CS 37 to allow the City to use a portion of the donation to offset the facility rental cost, and further

THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee approve the continuation of Policy CS 77 with respect to Provincial, National and International events.”

Carried unanimously

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Regional Recreation Centre** – Committee discussed access to the new recreation centre from the area of St. George’s Park. It was noted that the transportation study will provide for pedestrian access to the site. It was suggested including a snaking trail up the hill which can be accessed by cyclists that is not a steep grade.

Pam Coulter advised that the City will be undertaking a master plan for Victoria Park this year and will include consideration of pedestrian access.

Moved by Bob Knapp

“THAT Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee recommend that consideration be given to provide access to the new regional recreation centre via a pedestrian/bike route or suitable alternative in the vicinity of St. George’s Park by the Regional Recreation Centre

Steering Committee, Victoria Park Master Plan and Transportation Master Plan.”

Carried unanimously

10. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED WHICH IS PRESENTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Moved by Tom Wiley

THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee move ‘in camera’ to discuss identifiable individuals.”

Carried unanimously

Having completed its ‘in camera’ business, Committee returned to its regular meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2010.