



MINUTES
RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 8, 2009
7:00 p.m. – City Hall, Lower Boardroom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Wiley (Councillor - Georgian Bluffs) Vice Chair
City/County Councillor Arlene Wright Paul Foster
Gayle Graham
Brent Jeffries (8:07 pm)
Bob Knapp
Sharon McKeachnie
Francis Richardson (Mayor – Meaford)
Mark Rouse
Ryan Thompson (Councillor - Georgian Bluffs)
Rachelle Williams

ABSENT/REGRETS: Councillor Jim McManaman, Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
John Howard, Manager of Parks and Open Space
Pat Bryant, Community Services

1. CALL TO ORDER –7:00 P.M.

Tom Wiley assumed the Chair in the absence of Councillor McManaman.

2. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

a) Regional Recreation Centre

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

There was none.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting – September 17, 2009

Referring to page 3, it was noted that Carol Barfoot is not a member of Committee or appointed as an alternative and therefore unable to make a motion. Council changed the mover to City/County Councillor Arlene Wright.

On page 6, first line, Committee suggested the following wording with respect to Minor Hockey: Minor Hockey commits to 30 weeks of ice time, sets their

fees and schedules based on 30 weeks, then when the schedule changes and ice time is reduced, does not issue a refund of fees to parents for the difference.

Moved by Bob Knapp

"THAT the minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee meeting held on September 17, 2009 be hereby approved as amended."

Carried unanimously

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was none.

6. DEPUTATIONS

There were none.

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

There was none.

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

a) Report from Director of Community Services Re: Skate Board and Bike Park

The Director of Communities Services provided background information on the establishment and operation of the existing skateboard and bike parks.

The skateboard park is situated on privately owned lands that were leased to the City for the past 16 years. These lands are now proposed for development and 2009 will be the last year that the park will be open for use at this location.

As well, the City is planning a major upgrade to the sewage treatment plant. Although the environmental assessment process is underway, the bike park land will likely be required to facilitate the expansion. There is at present an opportunity to review the location and type of facility for use by skateboarders and bike enthusiasts.

Staff looked at other similar facilities. Saugeen Shores 'bowl' had a capital cost of \$325,000 of which community groups raised over 300,000. It is located close to the arena, Police Station, and restaurants and is very popular.

Committee discussed next steps and establishing a temporary site for 2010. Some of the existing ramps are portable and could be relocated. Committee discussed the need to generate excitement, establish partnerships and engage community groups to fundraise for such a City facility.

The timing for a skateboard/bike park facility is not ideal with the current infrastructure improvements and construction of the multi-purpose recreation facility.

The Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan suggests it is important to provide and continually upgrade these facilities for youth as there is lots of demand. Committee stressed the importance of providing free and/or affordable facilities to keep youth engaged in positive activities.

A small group of youth through OSAC has shown interest in the skateboard park. Staff will ensure they are consulted regarding a future facility.

Moved by Ryan Thompson

“THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee in consideration of a report from the Director of Community Services dated October 2, 2009, recommends that a public meeting be held with youth and other stakeholders and the public meeting be convened prior to pre-budget 2010 to consider input regarding function, design and location of a skateboard/BMX park facility in the City; and further

THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee recommend that staff be requested to bring forward a report to Committee after the public meeting regarding a temporary location for the skateboard park and/or BMX bike park for 2010.”

Carried unanimously

b) Report from Director of Community Services Re: Provincial, National and International Event – Facility Rental Rate Review and Waiving of Rental Fees for Other Events

This item was initiated by a request through Council.

i) Waiving of Rental Fees

The Director of Community Services reviewed the current Waiving of Rental Fees – Policy CS37 which allows organizations contributing 100% of net proceeds from a fundraising event to the City to have their facility rental fee waived.

In 2006 rentals were almost \$700,000 and in 2008 \$678,000, however revenue does not generate sufficient funds to cover the operating costs of facilities.

Council asked Committee to develop a policy for fundraising initiatives in support of the new regional recreation facility based on a sliding scale fee structure. Committee reviewed proposed principles for a policy to waive facility rental fees.

Committee discussed the ramifications of establishing a policy, the financial benefits to the City and fundraising groups, the percentage of proceeds being directed towards the new facility and how the policy would work administratively.

There was concern that fundraising by community groups may conflict with the overall recreation facility fundraising campaign being driven through the Owen Sound Family YMCA. It may be prudent to hold several larger events that generate a larger dollar amount than having many smaller events that raise only a few dollars and may just cover cost of the rental fee.

It is important that any fundraising event for the new Recreation Centre receive Steering Committee approval prior to proceeding and advertising/promotion clearly state funds are being directed to the new multi-purpose recreation facility. This will be included in the draft policy.

Committee discussed requirements for insurance, security deposits, and other factors.

Committee suggested that the rental fee waived should be scaled to the value of the proceeds being donated back to the City. If 100% of net proceeds are being donated, the hall rental fee would be entirely waived. The donation should be calculated on the net proceeds after all expenses have been accounted including rental fee.

Committee requested staff bring back to Committee for consideration at the next meeting a draft policy on waiving of rental fees based on the proposed principles, reflecting Committee's comments.

ii) Sponsorship Policy

The Director of Community Services reviewed various levels of support for special events and festivals that have occurred over the past few years. Pam Coulter outlined the proposed recommendation for a policy relating to provincial, national and international events.

Committee discussed the how to track how much money is generated by the groups. The draft policy requires that groups must submit a final reconciliation and the City reserves the right to audit financial statements.

Minor sports group currently receive a 30% reduction in fees and would not receive an additional reduction in facility rental costs.

It was noted that often when a group hosts a national or provincial event, a dollar amount must be submitted by the organization to the provincial/national body. This type of event would also have higher rental fees due to scheduling and cost of floor time. For the President's Cup, the Canadian Lacrosse Association sets the fees for the championships.

Committee suggested having a cap of the reduction depending on level of event; eg. National event - \$2,000; Provincial event - \$1,000. Only non-profit groups who generate less than 15% over their cost should be eligible to receive funding.

Committee requested staff bring back a draft policy for Committee's consideration at the next meeting incorporating Committee's comments and suggestions.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Pam Coulter advised that the Kelso Beach Park Master Plan public meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13th – 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

A public consultation for the Regional Recreation Centre will be held on Tuesday, October 20th, 7 p.m. at the Bayshore Community Centre. Formal notices will be sent out. City Council authorized negotiating with Aquicon as the construction project manager.

Tom Wiley, Councillor for Township of Georgian Bluffs appreciated the regular updates on the new regional recreation centre and relayed the township's interest in being represented on the Regional Recreation Steering Committee. Pam Coulter will relay the request to the Steering Committee.

- b) Sharon McKeachnie advised that she will be interviewed on Rogers CableTV – next Tuesday, October 13 about the Sports Hall of Fame inductions. Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2010 ceremony.

Brent Jeffries joined the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Members were reminded that the first Cultural Awards gala is on Thursday, October 15th at the Roxy Theatre and tickets are available for purchase.

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

- a) Sports Hall of Fame – September 13, 2009 Minutes

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 8.10 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12th, 2009.