



MINUTES
RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 17, 2009
7:00 p.m. – City Hall, Lower Boardroom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Jim McManaman, Chair
City/County Councillor Arlene Wright
Paul Foster
Brent Jeffries
Bob Knapp
Mark Rouse
Rachelle Williams

ABSENT/REGRETS: Gayle Graham
Sharon McKeachnie
Francis Richardson (Mayor – Meaford)
Ryan Thompson (Councillor - Georgian Bluffs)
Tom Wiley (Councillor - Georgian Bluffs) Vice Chair

OTHERS: Carol Barfoot (Councillor – Georgian Bluffs)

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
John Howard, Manager of Parks and Open Space
Craig Ruppenthal, Facilities Manager
Chris Hughes, Environmental Superintendent

1. CALL TO ORDER –7:03 PM

The Chair welcomed Rachelle Williams who is the City's PLAY liaison as a new member of the Committee.

2. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- a) ATV use of Trails
- b) Harrison Park
- c) Regional Recreation Centre
- d) Leash Free Dog Park

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 – July 9, 2009**

Moved by Brent Jeffries

“THAT the minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee meeting held on July 9, 2009 be hereby approved as printed.”

Carried unanimously

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) The Manager of Parks and Open Space will make the presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer to Council sometime in October.
- b) The Manager of Parks and Open Space updated Committee on the Cricket Pitch. The pitch is being used and will be reviewed at year end.
- c) Kelso Beach Park Master Plan – A ‘visioning’ public meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13th.
- d) Environmental Stewardship – The Manager of Parks and Open Space updated Committee on this program. A meeting has been held and orientation of students (8-10) is currently being conducted. Funding is being investigated through the TD Friends of the Environmental Foundation.
- e) Carol Barfoot expressed the Township of Georgian Bluffs’ interest in their involvement in the planning for the Regional Recreation Facility. It was requested that a written response to Georgian Bluffs be prepared.

The Chair provided a status report on the regional recreation centre:

- Memorandum of Understanding and Project Charter developed and approved
- Architect has been selected – Shore Tilbe Irwin & Partners Architects
- Discussions underway on building program
- RFP for construction manager closed September 11. Interviews will be occurring in the near future
- Committee is working to meet the tight timelines.

6. DEPUTATIONS

a) **Chris Hughes, Environmental Superintendent Re: Energy Audit – Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre by AGVIRO**

Chris Hughes presented the results of the energy audit undertaken by AGVIRO. The information has been presented to the Environmental and Waste Advisory Committee.

The final report outlined over 40 suggestions on ways to reduce energy consumption at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre. Items to be implemented will now need to be prioritized for recommendation in the 2010 budget.

The audit looked at the electrical usage showing a power factor of 90%. It suggested managing peak usage as one way to conserve energy.

The study cost of \$9,000 was a good investment to making the facility energy efficient.

Committee brought forward item 8 a) being the report from the Facilities Manager with respect to the Energy Audit for the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre.

The Facilities Manager outlined details on the recommendation to replace the boiler and hot water tank and renovating the main lobby of the Bayshore Community Centre to realize energy cost savings.

Moved by City/County Councillor Wright

“THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee recommends that staff prepare an RFP for an energy consultant to provide design specifications for replacing the boiler and hot water tank and that an architectural firm be employed to draft preliminary designs for the renovation of the Bayshore Lobby and that the money allocated in the 2009 budget for the replacement of the boiler be redirected to cover these costs and that monies necessary to complete these two projects be presented to Council for their 2010 budget deliberations.”

Carried unanimously

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

a) Letter from True Sport dated August 10, 2009 Re: Request to Join True Sport Movement

Committee reviewed and received the invitation to joint the True Sport Movement.

b) Sport Alliance of Ontario – Invitation to Host Ontario Games

The City has once again been invited to submit a bid to host future Ontario Games. The Committee thought this would be more appropriate after completion of the Regional Recreation Facility.

Moved by Paul Foster

“THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive the invitation to submit a bid to host future Ontario Games.”

Carried unanimously

c) Council Resolution of July 20, 2009 meeting Re: Leash Free Dog Park

The Chair updated Committee on this initiative. Committee had previously investigated establishing a leash free dog park or zone in the area of the former landfill site on the City's east end across from Duncan McLellan Park. Council requested this Committee revisit this initiative with a report to be brought forward to Service Analysis.

Staff will look at the former landfill site as a possible site for a leash free dog park as well as other locales. A report will be brought back to this Committee in November. It was noted that Fergus has an unfenced dog park.

Committee suggested that the park "needs to be community built" and raised the issue of insurance and liability.

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

a) Report from Facilities Manager Re: Energy Audit for the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre

This item was dealt with earlier.

b) Report from Facilities Manager Re: Jr. "A" Attack Advertising

The Facilities Manager outlined the advertising campaign proposed by the Attack for the floor of the upper concourse at the Bayshore Community Centre consisting of 8 vinyl graphics approximately 5' by 1' in size. Although it is not expected, the Attack will assume any repair costs if the signs cause any damage to the floors upon removal or replacement.

Committee raised concern that other advertising that has been removed is unsightly and has left a residue on the upright beams in the arena bowl. It was recommended that existing stair and other vinyl ads be repaired, cleaned, removed or replaced by the Owen Sound Attack as a condition of approval. It was also suggested arrangements could be made through the Manager of Economic Development and Tourism to place City Tourism advertising on the beams.

Staff advised Committee that the floor advertising should not impede walkers or the public in using the upper concourse.

Moved by City/County Councillor Wright

"THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee grants permission to the Owen Sound Attack Major Jr. "A" Hockey Club to place eight (8) floor graphics in the upper concourse of the Bayshore Community Centre and that the Owen Sound Attack assume all responsibility and costs associated with the installation, removal, and repair of the floor provided that the steel beams and floor risers (where advertising has been placed) be returned to the original

condition or appropriate arrangements be made with the City's Manager of Economic Development and Tourism for City promotional signage. "

Carried unanimously

Upon a question regarding establishing an advertising agreement, the Chair informed Committee that a new lease agreement is currently being negotiated with the Attack.

c) Report from Manager of Parks and Open Space Re: Equine Use of Trails

This item was initiated by a request through Council.

The Manager of Parks and Open Space provided information on current use of trails for various recreational activities. He noted that there has been limited use of City trails by equestrians. There has been evidence of use by people on horseback on the trails south of Harrison Park towards Inglis Falls and the 28th Street East trail.

Mr. Howard outlined the standards required for a trail designed to include equestrian use. The Ontario Trails Riders Association has developed "Trail Ride Rules" and a "Code of Ethics" for equestrians which includes respecting the rights of other trail users as well as nature and the environment. If a problems develops with respect to equine waste, signage regarding trail etiquette could be posted as a reminder.

Moved by City/County Councillor Arlene Wright

"THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive, for information, the report from the Manager of Parks and Open Space dated September 14, 2009 regarding the Equine use of Trails."

Carried unanimously

b) Report from Director of Community Services Re: Ice Allocation Policy

The Director of Community Services provided background on the development of the Ice Allocation Policy. At the public meeting held in May for stakeholders, Minor Hockey raised concern with respect to the proposed cancellation terms and minimum seasonal commitment.

Staff has reviewed the suggestions received from Minor Hockey and other organizations and recommend the following in terms of cancellation:

- If the cancellation is prior to the minimum seasonal commitment outlined in Section 5.2, 30 days notice is required;
- If the cancellation is following the minimum seasonal commitment outlined in Section 5.2, 7 days notice is required.

Committee discussed the current seasonal commitment requirement of 30 weeks by minor sports groups and seasonable users and possibly reducing

the number of weeks. There was concern noted by the Committee that parents are not given a refund by Minor Hockey for a shortened season or cancelled ice time.

Moved by Brent Jeffries

“THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive the report from the Director of Community Services regarding ice Allocation Policy dated September 16, 2009; and further

THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee recommends that Section 5.2 and 7.3 be replaced with the following:

5.2 Seasonal Commitment

All minor sports groups and seasonal users are required to commit to a minimum:

Fall and Winter: 22-24 consecutive weeks to be completed between September 1 and the end of the winter season, March 31. Exceptions to the 22 week minimum may be made with the City is unable to supply replacement ice for disruptions to regular ice time and emergency closures.

7.3 permit Cancellation

Once an ice rental contract has been signed, the following cancellation policies are in effect:

Minor Sports Groups, Seasonal Clients and Board of Education

Prior to meeting the minimum seasonal commitment in Section 5.2 of this policy, 30 days written notice to the CSD is required to receive full permit refund.

Following meeting the minimum seasonal commitment in Section 5.2 of this policy, 7 days written notice to the CSD is required to receive full permit refund.

In either case, if the CSD receives less notice than is required and is able to book the ice, a full refund will still be provided.

And further, THAT the Ice Allocation Policy continue to be monitored and be brought forward at the May, 2010 Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee meeting for review as per the Policy.”

Carried on endorsed division
with Paul Foster opposed

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Kiwanis Harrison Park Playground – The official opening of the new accessible playground is Saturday, September 26th at 11:00 a.m. Committee is encouraged to attend.

- b) Skateboard Park – The Family Healthy Team has chosen the site for their new clinic. The lands used for the Skateboard Park are privately owned and have been leased by the City for the past 18 years for free from Miller Paving.

Staff will investigate alternative locations for a long term permanent solution for the skateboard park. The process will include participation by youth to ensure the development of a new park meets their needs.

At the October meeting, staff will bring forward a basic work plan and outline the process for moving this project forward.

The skateboard park is a popular place for youth. It was noted that the Recreation Master Plan makes several suggestions for maintaining and upgrading the park.

It was also noted that the Airtime Bike Park may need to be relocated when the sewage treatment plant is expanded. It was suggested the two parks could be developed together in another location.

The City of Chatham has a new park that was developed with teen involvement and input.

Moved by Bob Knapp

“THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee bring back a report regarding the Airtime Bike Park and Getaway Skateboard Park.”

Carried unanimously

- b) ATV Use of Trails – Committee asked for clarification of the by-law regarding use of trails by motorized vehicles including ATV’s and the need for appropriate signage on the trails.

Moved by Bob Knapp

“THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee request staff to investigate use of trails by ATV’s, trail signage and appropriate by-laws.”

Carried unanimously

- c) Committee is invited to attend the unveiling new signage in support of the policy for smoke free play areas and recreation spaces on Thursday, September 24th, 3:30 p.m. at the J. Irvine Brown Accessible Playground.

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

- a) Letter from Susan Schank Re: Kelso Beach Park – “Memorial Garden”
b) Letter from John D. Middlebro’ Re: Harrison Park Playground

Moved by Brent Jeffries

"THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive correspondence items 10 a) and 10 b)."

Carried unanimously

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 8.25 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8th, 2009.