

Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Electronic Participation at 5:00pm

Attendance:

Chair, Jim Richardson
Vice-Chair, Bill Fenwick
Cathy Hesch
Tim Dowd

Regrets:

Mike Deinhart
Trish O'Neill
Shannon Sullivan

Staff Liaison:

Eric Lamothe, Manager of Business Planning and Strategic Services

Guests:

Councillor Bill Phillips
Councillor Greg Miller
Phil Cristi, Director of Community, Recreation and Culture Services
Kaylea Cassano, Community Strategy and Policy Coordinator

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 5:13pm.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Chair Richardson acknowledged that the land on which the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. **Amendments to the Agenda**

There were none.

4. **Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by: Cathy Hesch

That the agenda for the October 27, 2020 meeting of the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

5. **Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

6. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

Moved by: Bill Fenwick

That the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee approve the revised minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020. Revision to include Tim Dowd as a member of the Recreation Facilities Allocation Policy Sub-Committee.

CARRIED

7. **Business**

7.1 Splash Pads

Phil Cristi provided an update on splash pads in the City of St. Catharines. At its meeting on Wednesday, October 21st City Council discussed the draft 2021 Operating and Capital budgets and projects. During the meeting, Councillor Miller asked staff about future projects for a splash pad in the Merriton ward.

Councillor Miller discussed the needs in St. Catharines for additional splash pads and asked the committee for comments on the subject.

Jim Richardson referenced the Recreation Master Plan, and its recommendations relating to splash pads. Jim also noted that the Aquatics Facility Strategy is currently being developed and is expected to be completed in Q1 of 2021.

Tim Dowd commented on the Outdoor Aquatics Task Force and noted that the task force has not been able to meet due to COVID-19. However, the task force is looking forward to reading the Aquatics Facility Strategy.

Councillor Miller and Councillor Phillips discussed the timing of this type of project.

Phil Cristi commented on the budget process to secure funding for this type of project and emphasized the impact of splash pads in the community. Phil also noted

that the splash pad project would include a washroom facility, which would impact the project cost.

7.2 Work Plan Review

Eric Lamothe lead the committee through a review of the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee work plan which will be presented to the Social Sustainability Pillar Committee meeting.

Phil Cristi noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, programs and services provided by the Community, Recreation and Culture Services department were put on hold. While these programs are deemed 'non-essential', the impact of these programs are significant. Phil then asked committee members if there is anything missing from their work plan that may help citizens stay active and healthy should the pandemic continue through the winter months.

Tim Dowd commented that COVID-19 has greatly impacted not just physical health, but mental health as well. Tim suggested focusing on activities that focus on mental health, while respecting provincial and public health protocols and recommendations.

Councillor Phillips commented on the need to clear snow on city trails in order for citizens to utilize the park trails during the winter months.

Jim Richardson thanked staff for their dedication and commitment throughout the pandemic.

7.3 Rzone Policy

Eric Lamothe provided the committee with an update on the Rzone Policy. The policy has been approved by City Council and is now being implemented throughout the city.

Eric shared two graphics related to the policy: the Rzone city signage and a rink board sign. The full launch of the Rzone Policy is expected for Q2 2021.

7.4 Playground & Basketball Court Video

Jim Richardson provided the committee with an update on the upcoming Douglas Park and Partridge Park ribbon cutting ceremonies. Mayor Sendzik, city councilors, and city staff will also attend both ceremonies. Jim will attend both ceremonies on behalf of the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee.

7.5 Community and Outdoor Ice Rinks

Kaylea Cassano provided the committee with an update regarding the Community Outdoor Ice Rinks Pilot Project. The application period for the 2020-2021 season closed on Friday, October 9th. In total, 5 applications were received. Four of the five applications submitted were approved. Each community group has been scheduled to attend a mandatory orientation session in preparation of the skating season.

7.6 Canada Summer Games Update

Bill Fenwick provided the committee with an update regarding the Canada Summer Games, which has been postponed until 2022. The committees involved in the planning of the games are meeting on a bi-monthly basis. The construction of Canada Games Park will meet its deadlines.

Phil Cristi added that the agreements related to the operations of the facilities is ongoing.

8. **Date of next meeting**

Thursday, December 03, 2020

Jim Richardson requested that a golf course update be added as an agenda item at the next meeting including usage statistics and revenue/expenses (if available).

9. **Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by: Tim Dowd

That the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 6:33pm