

Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Electronic Participation at 5:00 p.m.

This Meeting of the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee will be held through Electronic Participation, as approved by the City of St. Catharines Council on May 6, 2020.

This Meeting may be viewed online at www.stcatharines.ca/youtube

Public Comments: The public may submit comments regarding agenda matters by contacting elamoth@stcatharines.ca by Monday, January 18, 2021 before 3:00 PM. Comments submitted will be considered as public information and entered into public record.

Members:

Jim Richardson, Chair
Bill Fenwick, Vice-Chair
Mike Deinhart
Tim Dowd
Cathy Hesch
Trish O'Neill
Shannon Sullivan

Staff:

Phil Cristi, Director of Community, Recreation and Culture Services
Eric Lamothe, Manager of Strategic and Business Services
Lori Mambella, Manager, Programs and Culture Services
Kaylea Cassano, Community Strategy and Policy Coordinator

Regrets:

Councillor Bill Philips

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1. **Call meeting to order**
Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
 2. **Recognition of Traditional Territories**
Chair Richardson read the following:

The land on which we meet 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. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda**

There were none.

4. **Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by: Cathy Hesch

That the agenda for the January 19, 2021 meeting of the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

5. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

6. **Motion to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting**

Moved by: Shannon Sullivan

That the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the task force for the meeting held on December 3, 2020.

CARRIED

7. **Business**

7.1 COVID-19 Update

Phil Cristi provided the committee with a COVID-19 update. As a result of the province-wide lockdown many staff are once again working from home.

In response to the lockdown, the St. Catharines Farmers Market has reduced its hours of operation and is now open on Saturday's only. There is a total of 26 market vendors, with one patron/vendor in the facility at a time.

To promote local online business, the City has launched the LoveSTC campaign.

The Kiwanis Aquatics Centre is open on a modified schedule to accommodate the Library's pick-up hours of operation.

Merritton Arena is set to undergo various renovations and user groups have been informed of the upcoming work.

Chair Richardson asked about the status of playgrounds, and whether they will be closed to the public. Phil Cristi noted that direction to close playgrounds for public use was not provided by the Province of Ontario in December.

7.2 ActiveNet Implementation Project

Lori Mambella provided the committee with an update on the ActiveNet Implementation Project. Currently, staff are testing the program which is expected to be fully implemented by April 20th, 2021.

Trish ONeill asked if ActiveNet will allow for online bookings. Lori confirmed that booking reservation requests may be created by the user online and approved by staff.

7.3 Aquatics Facilities Strategy Update

Eric Lamothe provided the committee with an update on the Aquatics Facilities Strategy. Staff expect to launch an EngageSTC campaign in early February. This campaign will include a copy of the draft strategy as well as a narrated presentation outlining the components of the strategy. Monteith Brown are expected to present their findings to council in March 2021.

7.4 Community Outdoor Ice Rinks

Kaylea Cassano provided the committee with an update on the Community Outdoor Ice Rinks pilot project. The group was provided an overview of the current 2020-2021 season, as well as how COVID-19 has impacted the program.

Bill Fenwick asked if community groups have been asked to set skating time limits at each ice rink. Staff noted that the rinks are not staffed and are not monitored daily, however they will make the recommendation to each community group.

7.5 Canada Summer Games Update

Bill Fenwick provided an update on the Canada Summer Games. Currently, all business plans and venue agreements are being revised. The next scheduled meeting is February 3, 2021.

7.6 Community, Recreation and Culture Services Updates

Phil Cristi informed the group on how CRCS continues to connect with the community:

- CRCS has secured various grants to help increase online programming.

- Horticultural projects like the Free Tree Giveaway have adapted to the pandemic, and planting projects are scheduled for spring and throughout 2021.
- The Business Planning and Strategic Services team have continued to complete various consulting projects across the city.
- CRCS continues to push forward with playground development, including Happy Rolph's Farm and Montebello Park.
- The St. Catharines Farmers Market re-opened in May 2020 and has remained open throughout the pandemic.
- The City held multiple Food Giveaways at the Market to help distribute food to those in need.
- The Recreation and Culture teams have launched a virtual programming campaign called ActiveSTC to further engage the public.
- CRCS scheduling staff have been responsive to changes in facility bookings, tournament schedules, etc.
- Construction projects remain on schedule, including the washroom renovation at Sunset Beach.

Chair Richardson presented the following motion
Moved by: Trish O'Neill

That the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee officially thank staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the pandemic.

CARRIED

8. Date of next meeting

February 16th, 2021
 March 16th, 2021
 April 20th, 2021
 May 18th, 2021
 June 15th, 2021
 July 20th, 2021
 August 17th, 2021
 September 21st, 2021
 October 19th, 2021
 November 16th, 2021

All Meetings times scheduled for 5:00pm to 7:00pm

9. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Shannon Sullivan

That the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 6:05pm

CARRIED