

# Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee

## Minutes

**Tuesday, June 01, 2021**

**Electronic Meeting at 5:00pm**

### **Attendance:**

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

### **Absent:**

### **Guests:**

Saleh Waziruddin, Anti-Racism Advisory Committee Chair  
Councillor Bill Phillips  
Councillor Bruce Williamson

### **Staff Liaison:**

Phil Cristi, Director of Community, Recreation and Culture Services  
Lori Mambella, Manager of Programs and Culture Services  
Eric Lamothe, Manager of Strategic and Business Services  
Jessica Button, Project and Development Planner

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#### **1. Call meeting to order (Chair)**

Jim Richardson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

#### **2. Recognition of Traditional Territories**

Jim Richardson acknowledged that the land on which the Recreation Facilities Allocation Policy Sub-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: Shannon Sullivan**

That the agenda for the June 1, 2021 meeting of the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee be approved.

**CARRIED**

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

**Moved by: Bill Fenwick**

That the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the task force for the meeting held on March 16, 2021.

**CARRIED**

6. **Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

7. **Business**

**7.1 COVID-19 Update**

Phil Cristi provided an update on City operations and recreation.

- Beaches and splash pads are open and have been well attended. Splash pads are not staffed this year. Education signage is provided at City facilities.
- The St. Catharines Farmers Market is open and well attended.
- Park permits are not currently available for organized activities.
- Ice was removed from all arenas.

**7.2 Rzone Policy Discussion**

Anti-Racism Advisory Committee Chair, Saleh Waziruddin presented to the Committee.

- The Anti-Racism Advisory Committee has been reviewing responses to events and identified gaps in the Rzone Policy.
- They have identified a possible gap between the time of an incident and the police response time.

- A suspension of play and / or cancellation of the game may be required if the police are unable to attend.
- Bill Fenwick questioned if the stoppage of game would cause escalation in the incident or additional conflict amount participant. Saleh Waziruddin offered to do some additional research.
- Mike Deinhart noted that a complete cancellation of the event may be an extreme measure and would prefer to see a suspension in play.
- Shannon Sullivan noted that there may be safety concerns associated with waiting to continue play.
- Trish O'Neill noted that the game shouldn't be cancelled and noted that referees have the power to hold the game until the issue is resolved.
- Councillor Phillips noted that the Rzone Policy should have a direct statement with respect to the punishment of an incident that involves racism.
- Phill Cristi noted that staff rely on the involvement of many users for all permits. Staff do need to review how these groups are addressing this issue. Rzone was designed so that the organizer would have the primary responsibility of dealing with issues as they escalate. The City response would need to consider what the organizations can do.
- Chair Richardson, noted that most games are minor age and was unsure if the City could support suspensions. The referee can cancel the game as a last recourse. It was suggested that CRCS obtain additional information that is required from Legal Services and Clerks Services for a follow up.

### **Motion**

**Chair Richardson presented the following motion**

**Moved by: Bill Fenwick**

That CRCS staff obtain additional information from Legal Services, Clerks, and Sport Canada and report back to the committee.

### **7.3 Parks Renewal Plan 2021 Update**

Eric Lamothe presented the 2021 Parks Renewal Plan.

- 74 of 110 play assets are due for replacement in the next 1-5 years
- Funding needs have increased.

- Capital budget funding is not matching the asset lifecycle.
  - Facility Accessibility Design Standards have increased the cost for each asset.
- Eric introduced “A Strategy to Ensure St.Catharines Remains a City Where Everyone Can Play”
  - \$15,000,000 is required over the next 10 years.
  - At current funding levels, 55 asset renewals could be considered for permanent closure and cause additional gaps in the existing service level.
- Bill Fenwick questioned Council’s ability to accommodate the funding request and looked to a new funding strategy.
- Phil Cristi noted that the report will be going to the Budget Standing Committee along with the new Sponsorship and Advertising Policy which will give Council an idea of one avenue for revenue.
- Councillor Phillips noted that new facilities may get more use and should be designed to serve as many users as possible.

## **Motion**

**Chair Richardson presented the following motion**

**Moved by: Trish O'Neill**

That the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee endorses the Parks Renewal Plan 2021 update; and

That the increased funding levels are included in future capital budgets to mitigate play asset closures; and

That staff include a funding strategy with the Parks Renewal Plan 2021 update.

## **7.4 Canada Summer Games Update**

Bill Fenwick provided an update on the Canada Summer Games.

- Planning meetings for the 2022 games resume for June, July, and August.
- The organization is working on filling volunteer positions.
- Summer Games Park is 75% complete.
- Henley construction is also underway.
- Niagara 2022 has partnered with Wise Guys. A lottery is underway and will be advertised further.

**8. Date of next meeting**

- July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021
- September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

**9. Motion to Adjourn**

**Moved by: Shannon Sullivan**

That the Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 6:31pm.

**CARRIED**