

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
RECREATION, PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY JUNE 1, 2021 @ 8:30 A.M.
VIA WEB CONFERENCING
<https://youtu.be/RR9EzljJsw>**

Committee Members Present:

- Steve McCabe, Councillor, Chair
- Dan Yake, Councillor
- Andy Lennox, Mayor ex officio

Staff Members Present:

- Matthew Aston, Director of Operations
- Tom Bowden, Recreation Services Manager
- Mandy Jones, Community Recreation Coordinator
- Karren Wallace, Director of Legislative Services

Calling to Order
Chair McCabe called meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
Adoption of Agenda
RESOLUTION RPL 2021-023 Moved by Member Yake Seconded by Mayor Lennox <i>THAT the agenda for the June 1, 2021 Township of Wellington North Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee meeting be accepted and passed.</i> <i>CARRIED</i>
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
None
Minutes of Previous Meeting – May 4, 2021 (approved by Council on May 10, 2021)
Business Arising From Minutes
Deputation
Off Leash Dog Park in Mount Forest - Joe Wettlaufer RESOLUTION 2021-024 Moved by Member Yake Seconded by Mayor Lennox <i>THAT Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee direct staff to bring a report to a future meeting of Committee regarding off leash dog parks in Wellington North.</i> <i>CARRIED</i>

On behalf of the residents of Mount Forest, Mr. Wettlaufer attended the meeting to get more information on the intention of the Township for the creation of an off-leash dog park in Mount Forest.

A dog park was identified as a recommendation in the 2018 Recreation Master Plan. At this time, a dog park is not part of the current Capital Budget plan. While not part of the current budget, it is part of the Master Plan and is still being considered for the future.

Member Yake identified that this is something that should be considered, however, location and safety are always a concern with dog parks.

Mayor Lennox asked if there was a group established to help with the care and maintenance of a dog park, as this is part of the master plan.

Mr. Wettlaufer replied that there was no group established, the group would be established after there was a site chosen, in accordance with the Master Plan recommendation.

After a discussion about possible Mount Forest locations, there was a direction to staff to prepare a report on possible locations and forming a committee to help with the planning process.

Joe Wettlaufer left the meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Aquatics Committee Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION RPL 2021-025

Moved By Member Yake

Seconded By Mayor Lennox

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee approve a \$200.00 budget for the design of a new logo and slogan for the Mount Forest Pool fundraising activities.

CARRIED

Minutes attached to the agenda are for the March 30th instead of the May 18th Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee Meeting. As such the minutes will be brought to the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee for receipt on July 6, 2021.

Matthew Aston provided a verbal update. All Committee members were present at the May 18th meeting. The committee was successful in their application to the Community Grants and Donations Fund which will cover the hall rental for three Drive-Thru Chicken BBQ Fundraising Dinners. The Committee is exploring a memorial tree fundraiser and promotional materials. Committee has asked for a \$200 budget to have a new logo and slogan created to be used on promotional materials.

The Mount Forest Request for Proposal will go out in the fall looking for design proposals for the new pool.

The Committee asked staff for additional financial information regarding the splash pad. Staff will connect with the finance team and provide information at a future meeting.

Reports

2020 Parks and Recreation Financial Summary

RESOLUTION 2021-026

Moved By Mayor Lennox

Seconded By Member Yake

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information report 2020 Parks and Recreation Financial Summary.

CARRIED

Revenue was down a lot due to the pandemic, the recreation department aimed to offset this by reducing expenses, primarily through wages and utilities. The Arthur facility revenue was down by nearly \$130,000 but was offset by reducing expenses by nearly \$180,000. In Mount Forest, the revenue was down by nearly \$250,000 and was offset by reducing expenditures by almost \$264,000. As we continue into the pandemic, we can expect that there will be reduced revenues similarly for this operating year. It is hoped that there will be summer baseball and fall hockey that can increase revenues for this year.

Recreation department was praised by committee members for their efforts in reducing the expenses.

Drew Nelson Agreement – Ice Resurfacers

RESOLUTION 2021-027

Moved By Member Yake

Seconded By Mayor Lennox

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information the Drew Nelson Ice Resurfacers Advertisement Agreement.

CARRIED

Drew Nelson, in accordance with the original contract, was given the first right of refusal to renew his contract with the Township. The new advertising contract will begin August 1, 2021 and extend to July 31, 2025.

The committee expressed thanks to Drew Nelson for his commitment to the Township and the Recreation department.

COVID-19 Roadmap to Reopening

The Recreation Department is ahead of the reopening plan, in terms of reopening readiness. The playgrounds, fields and splash pads are ready. The pools will be ready for the end of Step 1. Step 2 allows for 10 people outdoors on the sports fields, but no team sport played. We will not see the return of team sports or indoor rentals until Step 3.

Mayor Lennox commented that the June 14th start date of Step 1 may be moved ahead a week and wanted the recreation department to prepared for this.

Manager of Recreation Services has all amenities ready and can be prepared for an earlier reopen. The dates for the pools will remain at the end of June as with previous years.

New Business/Roundtable

Splash Pads Reopening June 1, 2021

The Splash Pads were inspected May 31. Mount Forest Splash Pad opened today, June 1 and the Arthur Splash Pad will open June 4, 2021 due to the construction at the OptiMrs Playground.

Arthur OptiMrs Playground

Arthur OptiMrs Playground construction is expected to be completed Friday, June 4th. There were some early complications due to COVID-19 and weather. The Arthur Outdoor Gym should also be completed this week.

Mayor Lennox questioned whether there would be a public opening of the Playground and gym. Recreation Community Coordinator answered that the Arthur BIA and Chamber are planning a virtual event for the Outdoor Gym. At this time nothing has been planned or scheduled for the Arthur OptiMrs playground. Member Yake noted there has not been an official opening of the Mount Forest Splash Pad yet.

Roundtable

CAO, Mike Givens, update the committee that the Recreation Department is working on a Green Inclusive Community Building Application, this would be to complete the work at the Arthur and Area Community Centre, for a project total of approximately \$4,500,000.

The Recreation Capital Program this year was extremely aggressive. The recreation programming, due to COVID-19 regulations and restrictions, has been very tumultuous, as has the repetitive reopening and closing of amenities in recreation. Due to these stressors, we should temper some expectations of recreation. The idea of a Dog Park in Mount Forest is a great idea; however, the committee should recognize that the Recreation staff is spread thin already. There is a lot of pressure for recreation with ideas that come before the department.

Adjournment

RESOLUTION RPL 2021-028

Moved by Chair McCabe
Seconded by Member Yake

THAT the Township of Wellington North Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee meeting of June 1, 2021 be adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

CARRIED