

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
RECREATION, PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, February 7, 2023 @ 4:00 P.M.
VIA WEB CONFERENCING**

Committee Members Present:

- Steve McCabe, Councillor, Chair
- Penny Renken, Councillor, Member
- Jim Ferguson, Councillor Township of Southgate, Member
- Andy Lennox, Mayor, ex-officio

Regrets:

Staff Members Present:

- Brooke Lambert, Chief Administrative Officer
- Matthew Aston, Director of Operations
- Karren Wallace, Clerk
- Tom Bowden, Recreation Services Manager
- Tasha Grafos, Community Recreation Coordinator
- Jessica Turnbull, Administrative Support

Guests:

- Kyle Ferguson, Vice President, Mount Forest Minor Hockey

Calling to Order
Chair McCabe called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Warm welcomes and introductions for new members, Councillor Ferguson, Township of Southgate. Councillor Renken joined at 4:05pm
Adoption of Agenda
RESOLUTION RPL 2023-001 Moved by Member Ferguson Seconded by Member Renken THAT the agenda for the February 7, 2023, Township of Wellington North Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Committee meeting be accepted and passed. CARRIED
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
None
Deputation
Kyle Ferguson, Vice President, Mount Forest Minor Hockey Association RESOLUTION RPL 2023-002

Moved by Member Renken

Seconded by Member Ferguson

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information the deputation from the Mount Forest Minor Hockey Association.

CARRIED

Mr. Ferguson stated that in the past year minor hockey has been running into ice time issues. Extension in the hockey season has led to an increased demand for ice time. Minor Hockey would like to have the ice extension policy amended to include their needs along with the Mount Forest Patriots- which would allow ice to stay in for their playoffs. They understand the clause of minimum ice time required and feel the 30-hr. minimum seems to be farfetched.

Mr. Ferguson said that MFMHA is the main ice user of the arena and should be treated equally with the Patriots, who use less ice. It is difficult for teams to go out and source ice elsewhere when our home ice could stay in and be used.

Mayor Lennox asked Mr. Ferguson about the lengthening of the season for minor hockey, as Mr. Ferguson stated there has been some change over the past couple of years, and asked what is driving that.

Mr. Ferguson responded with OMHA is now doing tournament styles for All-Ontario, making league play go until March Break and or beyond. This year's format is meaningful hockey for everyone until March Break. If you are a finalist, you playoff until the end of March and into April. After this time, there are tournaments for All-Ontario. Girls' hockey goes on into the middle of April for their provincial tournaments. The start of hockey isn't until the week after Labor Day where in the past it used to be August, thus pushing the season further back.

Mr. Ferguson acknowledged the cost of running the arena but thought there could be a lot of Spring Hockey and Spring tryouts.

Mayor Lennox asked about pushing the ice start date back and looking at the entire calendar.

Mr. Ferguson explained that after Labor Day is when OMHA gives minor hockey the green light to start, and September is very busy. You are not allowed to have sanctioned ice before Labor Day.

The DOO stated that the Township staff live by the policy, and it has rules set out and if it is economically feasible, they would look to extend.

The RSM added, it takes two weeks to put the ice in and have had it ready for the first day after Labor Day, it will come out this year on April 12th. Staff have always worked with Amy Parker the ice scheduler for MFMHA, and she will provide minor hockey ice time needs for April.

<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting – November 8, 2022, approved at Council on December 5, 2022</p>
<p>RESOLUTION RPL 2023-003 Moved by Member Ferguson Seconded by Member Renken</p> <p>THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information the minutes of the November 8, 2022, Committee Meeting.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
<p>Business Arising From Minutes</p>
<p>None</p>
<p>Ad Hoc Committee Updates</p>
<p>Mount Forest Aquatics Ad Hoc Meeting tonight at 7PM</p>
<p>Reports</p>
<p>OPS 2023-004 Winter Storm Event</p> <p>RESOLUTION RPL 2023-004 Moved by Member Ferguson Seconded by Member Renken</p> <p>THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information Report RPL 2023- 004 being a report on the outcomes of the winter storm event of December 22 – December 25, 2022.</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>The CRC spoke to the holiday winter storm, stating that the CAO made the decision that the Township office would be closed December 22 and 23. Recreation staff made the decision on the morning of Thursday December 22 to cancel the holiday morning camp that was scheduled for Friday Dec 23. On December 23 and 24, there were cancellations of ice time for minor sports groups and private ice rentals and these cancellations continued to Dec 24.</p> <p>Mount Forest & District Sports Complex and the Arthur & Area Community Centre opened as warming centres on December 23 and 24. Arthur had three stranded travellers use the shelter over the 2 days. One on Dec 23, arriving at around 7:30pm who had to spend the night in the arena. Two more travellers arrived on the 24th, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. When warming centres closed at 3pm on Dec 24, local volunteers were able to find lodging for the three people that had been in the Arthur Arena. The warming centre in Mount Forest was not used.</p> <p>Chair McCabe put a shout out to Bonnie MacIntosh and the Presbyterian Church for their efforts during the winter storm.</p> <p>Mayor Lennox spoke to our emergency management as the term “warming center” has certain expectations that we can house people over night, and the expectation</p>

that we have resources to care for these people. This creates a communication issue as we do not have these resources available. The Township may need to consider new terminology.

Chair McCabe agreed and wondered if the County's emergency preparedness could offer insight or if we can set up a program with them so if this happens again there is no expectation the arenas will be seen as warming centers.

The CAO clarified she had conversations with various groups during the storm and when the OPP asked us to open the warming center in the arena, staff reached out to the Red Cross who were unable to provide aid, as roads were closed.

Additionally, there were challenges with staffing. In discussion with Bonnie MacIntosh, insight on how their volunteer group works was provided. The group does like having the autonomy to be able to fill the needs and are hoping for broader streamlined communication from the Township and the County.

Mayor Lennox thanked the Recreation staff for their response and has had been having conversations with OPP on how The Township can better communicate with people to keep them off the roads during a dangerous winter storm.

The RSM added his agreeance with the Mayor - that people will show up at the arenas looking for resources. Adding both Arena Operators Jen and Chris did a phenomenal job during the weather event.

OPS 2023-006 Terms of Reference Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Standing Committee of Council

RESOLUTION RPL 2023-005

Moved by Member Renken

Seconded by Member Ferguson

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information Report RPL 2023- 006 being a report on amendments recommended to the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Committee;

AND FURTHER THAT Committee recommend the Council of the Township of Wellington North approve the following changes to the TOR for the Committee:

- Meetings will be typically scheduled for 4pm of the first Tuesday of the month, except for January and August, or at the call of the Chair; and

- Meetings will be held in person or remotely.

AND FURTHER THAT Committee recommend Council direct staff to update the TOR accordingly.

CARRIED

The DOO expressed this is a housekeeping item so members can see when the meetings are and any provisions for the meetings.

OPS 2023-005 Recreation Master Plan Update

RESOLUTION RPL 2023-006

Moved by Member Ferguson

Seconded by Member Renken

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information Report RPL 2023- 005 being a report on updates to the Recreation Master Plan.

CARRIED

The DOO discussed the report with committee and how it is looking at the 2018 Recreation Master plan. The report updates members on the idea that recreation is getting to be a wider focus in our community and we need to be aware of it as a reality.

Chair McCabe would like to see the addition of the Optimist multi use pad in the Recreation Master Plan.

Mayor Lennox remembers discussion of the Rec Mater plan five years ago and talks about the arena roof, pool and expanding recreation offerings. The Township is at a point where a refresh is needed to ensure the plan is up to date going forward. The mayor added he would like life cycle costing to ensure it is an affordable plan and if not, The Township can look at alternatives.

Chair McCabe added a fresh update would be nice for residents to see.

The CAO explained that planning to do an update would make sense for early next year to determine the scope and The Township will hopefully have an asset manager in place that can assist with cycle costing in an updated RMP.

Items for Consideration

Chair McCabe would like the Arthur Optimist Multi use pad added to the Rec Master Plan.

Roundtable

Unauthorized Vehicles using Trailways and Parks (Verbal)

The DOO spoke to ongoing complaints received about motor vehicles on the rail trail in the town of Mount Forest (Durham ST to Industrial Dr). Staff have put together signs to display “no unauthorized motor vehicles permitted”, however the Township does not have the means to enforce.

The DOO added there are complaints about snow mobiles.

Mayor Lennox has spoken with OPP about this trail, and they advised that without signs, they are unable to enforce at all. Adding signs would allow them to enforce as needed.

Mayor Lennox is supportive with signage and added staff need to be thoughtful about the safety for walking pedestrians if directing them.

Wellington North Walking Track Sponsorship (Verbal)

The CRC discussed the new walking track sponsorship for the Township. There were patrons in Arthur that were unhappy with the available hours for walking indoors and the fee associated with the indoor walking program. Likewise, in Mount Forest, there were participants in the indoor walking program that were not pleased about the fees.

In speaking with RSM and Recreation Facilities Supervisor about ideas on how to rectify, the first problem was easily remedied. The indoor walking hours in Arthur were increased from two days a week to five days a week and extended the time to 9am – noon. (previously 9am – 11am). The increased programming in Arthur began the first week of November and this was well received by the participants of the program.

Rec Staff also decided to make indoor walking available all year round in both Arthur and Mount Forest.

The RSM stated that in previous years, pre-COVID, the walking track in Mount Forest brought in more than \$5000 per year. From there, the CRC developed sponsorship opportunity for the walking tracks forming a united Wellington North Walking Track Sponsorship opportunity. This opportunity would allow community groups and local businesses to sponsor indoor walking in both facilities for one year for \$1000.00. After approaching a few businesses and local community groups, six sponsors stepped up.

- BM Ross
- Canadian Flat Roof Systems
- Lions Club of Arthur
- Lions Club of Mount Forest
- Branch 134 Catch the Ace Committee
- Seniors' Centre for Excellence

A big thank you to these sponsors that will allow indoor walking from March 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024 free of charge for patrons.

Ice Extension (Verbal)

Th RSM is working with minor hockey to extend the ice until April 12th. Currently there is a tournament booked for April 1st and Ringette is on board for a couple hours a week. Staff will be checking in with other groups to utilize ice time.

Chair McCabe asked when lacrosse starts.

The RSM stated lacrosse starts April 1st in Arthur and there is no lacrosse in Mount Forest. Centre Wellington has reached out to book floor time this summer as their

Elora arena is undergoing construction. On March 20th the ice will be coming out in Arthur.

Community Garden Newsletter

The DOO discussed the Mount Forest Family Health Team has found a property for their community garden and the more we can promote them the better as they are doing a community service.

Mount Forest Pool Concepts

The DOO explained how much, financially, the Township is willing to put forward to the pool is an important conversation as the cost of this project is very big. There are staffing costs and ongoing costs to consider as well.

Mayor Lennox indicated that we need a longer-term view in terms of the financial implications knowing other issues are coming. Looking at a 10-year financing plan is a consideration to help explain costs to residents and rationalize there is a plan in place and that the Township is not recklessly spending. Developers also need to come to the table.

The CAO mentioned this is one of the items initiating the 10-year view and will be presented in the capital budget process. Staff have heard those comments and want to assist council with those decisions. The chair asked about a timeline and the CAO explained tomorrow there will be a conversation with senior managers to get a better sense, as the Capital Budget will be presented Feb 27th

Adjournment

RESOLUTION RPL 2023-007

Moved by Member Renken

Seconded by Member Ferguson

THAT the Township of Wellington North Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee meeting of February 7, 2023, be adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

CARRIED