

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
RECREATION, PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 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

Staff Members Present:

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

Guests:

- Lindsay Smith, Roller Derby

Calling to Order
Chair McCabe called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
Adoption of Agenda
RESOLUTION RPL 2023-008 Moved by Member Renken Seconded by Member Ferguson THAT the agenda for the March 14, 2023, Township of Wellington North Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Committee meeting be accepted and passed. CARRIED
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
None
Deputation
Lindsay Smith, Roller Derby Representative RESOLUTION RPL 2023-009 Moved by Member Renken Seconded by Member Ferguson THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information the deputation from from Lindsay Smith, Roller Derby Skaters. CARRIED Ms. Smith is part of a roller derby league out of Grey Bruce. They are looking to expand the sport in the community and for Township support for space to facilitate classes. Would like to look at the possibility of a junior league as well.

Chair McCabe mentioned there was a women's roller derby league in Mount Forest years ago at Victory Church.

Ms. Smith explained they are currently renting from Victory Church. They are charged \$60 per hour and use two hours every Sunday evening. They would be looking for Sunday nights possibly at the Sport Complex arena floor.

The DOO suggested staff take this information back with them to absorb and consider things like insurance implications and availability.

Chair McCabe asked about a start date. Ms. Smith explained it would be dependent on the availability of the venue. In the current league all skaters are required to have their own insurance through the WFTDA and the league also has insurance. The user group would like to introduce the sport by offering a "101" program that teaches the basics and showcase games on Friday nights with an open skate. Neustadt has skate rentals available.

The DOO stated that if renting from the Township the insurance would be covered by the rental fee.

Ms. Smith mentioned starting in Mount Forest would be better than Arthur as there is already a base of skaters interested in skating. Additionally, an event in Arthur on a Friday night to generate interest would be ideal as well. The group is running a 101 program out of Owen Sound with around 15-20 skaters and driving an hour there when they could be practicing here. The fee is \$100 for the program, and it is a 10-week program. Once passed you become a league member part of the team and pay dues at that point.

Member Renken asked about the rate for the arena floor at the Sports Complex. The fee for the arena floor is \$67.00/hr and the size of the arena is larger which could accommodate more people and games.

RESOLUTION RPL 2023-010

Moved by Member Renken

Seconded by Member Ferguson

THAT the Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Committee direct staff to meet with the Lindsay Smith, local Roller Derby representative to discuss details and bring a report back to a future committee meeting.

CARRIED

Video Recording of this meeting started at 4:20PM

Minutes of Previous Meeting – February 7, 20223, approved at Council on February 21, 2023

RESOLUTION RPL 2023-011
Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Renken

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information the minutes of the February 7, 2023, Committee Meeting.

CARRIED

Business Arising From Minutes

None

Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee Minutes of February 7, 2023.

RESOLUTION RPL 2023-012

Moved by Member Renken
Seconded by Member Ferguson

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information the minutes of the February 7, 2023, Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

Reports

OPS 2023-011 RPL Recreation Master Plan Review

RESOLUTION RPL 2023-013
Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Renken

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information Report OPS 2023- 011 being a report on a review the Recreation Master Plan.

CARRIED

The DOO discussed the report is consistent to what was presented last meeting and is a summary of what has been done over the past 5 years and to demonstrate what has been done.

Chair McCabe explained the priority is getting the roof completed at the Arthur arena. The Arthur arena floor was completed a year ago and staff might be able to get funding for the roof and retro funding for the floor.

DOO stated staff have put in a grant application eligible March 2021 and costs incurred from then will be eligible.

Member Renken questioned as to why recommendation 36 for the swimming pool is not mentioned under ongoing, complete, hold, and obsolete.

The DOO explained that it is an oversight, but the pool is a very contentious issue making it hard for staff to try and put forward.

Member Renken requested if the pool could be included on a category of its own.

Items for Consideration

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

Roundtable

Community Garden Minutes from February 7, 2023

Member Renken attended the meeting. After the initial discussion the members were divided into three groups focused on finance, special set up and community integration. They displayed a layout of the garden beds depicting which ones should be raised and what ones will be privately used etc. The groups will be meeting to discuss their topics.

Life Gears Academy – Use of Murphy’s Park

The RCC spoke to the summer camp run by Life Gears Academy. Last year the organization used Murphy’s Park and were not charged for this usage. Staff would open and close the bathrooms daily for camp use, using about an hour of staff’s time each day.

There were a few complaints from staff and residents about the camp. Bathrooms were often left in poor condition, leaving our staff to clean the mess. There were many tree branches and limbs broken by the campers climbing the trees and playing in them. There were complaints from local residents about the campers being on the road and playing in the parking lot.

Another major issue we had was during the Tornado warning on July 20th. The campers and the Life Gears staff were in an open park, with no shelter. They called Township staff for advice on what to do. This camp is not affiliated with the Township, and we did not have a safety plan to share with them.

They have approached the Township again this year and are asking for free usage again in Murphy’s Park. They have made a second request for space in Arthur as well. They require the use of washrooms and a shaded area.

In speaking with the Recreation Facility Supervisor, who had the most direct dealings with camp staff and participants last year, he feels that a more appropriate place for the kids would be at the Cork Street Park. Due to the safety concerns from last year

and issues that arose during that summer, it was suggested to have a Memorandum of Understanding with Life Gears to use township parks for their camps, if this committee approves the usage. Suggested items for the MOU are the need for insurance certificate, consideration of a fee, safety plan, and what parks are available for use.

Chair McCabe suggested a criminal record check would be important to inquire about and recommend committee give direction to staff to set up a deputation where the group explains their needs.

RESOLUTION RPL 2023-014
Moved by Member Ferguson
Seconded by Member Renken

THAT the Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Committee direct staff to invite a Life Gears representative to attend the next meeting of this committee through a deputation to discuss further.

CARRIED

Spring Openings

The RSM discussed spring cleanup and summer prep explaining that once the ice is out in Arthur staff will warm the floor, then paint the lacrosse lines on and seal the floor to be ready for the first lacrosse time on April 3.

In April as the weather gets warm, staff will start cleaning up in the parks and put all the water supplies back together in Pavilions.

The ice will be removed from the MFSC mid-April and the floor will be sealed and the building ready for the Elton John tribute concert in May put on by the Mount Forest Lions.

When dry enough, staff will start the cleanup of the trails. Garbage cans will be in the parks by May 1 and ball diamonds will be ready for May bookings.

Splash pads will be opened on June 1 and the pool will be ready in June for July start up.

The DOO explained in Mount Forest there will be a repaint of the standpipe which might impact opening the splash pad.

Aquatics: Staff / Lion Roy Grant Pool Plans

The RCC explained that staff have been recruiting for aquatics and day camp staff since mid-January with the postings closing on February 24th and were quite pleased with the applications that came in for day camp. However, only 4 viable applications have been received for aquatics.

These 4 applicants are all previous lifeguards with the Township, making them good candidates and as long as they don't find alternate employment, we would offer them a lifeguard position.

9 staff are required for the pool, an Aquatics Coordinator, 2 Head Guards, an assistant head guard, 3 lifeguards, and 2 part-time instructors. This staff complement allows us to offer full programming of the pool. Staff are keeping the job posting open – however, in the event that there are not enough applicants, we may have to look at reduced levels of service for the Arthur Pool.

The Clerk explained that there is a staffing shortage across the board and from experience it is a large expense to get certified. The Clerk asked Member Ferguson about their staffing situation in Southgate. Member Ferguson hasn't heard of any issues but will ask the Recreation Manager.

Member Renken discussed with Member Ferguson if Southgate has extra lifeguards, they are welcome to send some down to Wellington North.

The RCC added another area of concern is the Lion Roy Grant Pool in Mount Forest. This pool is unable to open for the second year. There has been no staff direction on what will be done with this facility; however, this committee should consider the safety implications of leaving stagnant water in the pool for another year as well consider installing No Trespassing signs on the building and fencing.

The RSM explained that the tank always has water in it, so the floor doesn't come up and walls cave in. The pool is not full, but it is a danger if kids jump the fence and enter the facility. Believes staff should take steps toward decommissioning it.

Member Renken asked if there were any problems last year with kids trespassing and hopping the fence. The RSM explained to staff's knowledge there were no problems.

The committee directed staff to board up the building and install no trespassing signs for the Lion Roy Grant Pool.

Update on Mount Forest Ice Extension

Currently the ice season has been extended at the MFSC to April 12.

The Recreation team has booked 25.5 hours of ice usage over that twelve-day period, and this does not include any ice rental from MFMHA and the MF Patriots. Currently minor hockey has not told us what they would need but expect them to take 8-16 hours. Both Saturdays in April have Mennonite tournaments.

Adjournment

RESOLUTION RPL 2023-015

Moved by Member

Seconded by Member

THAT the Township of Wellington North Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee meeting of March 14, 2023, be adjourned at 5:07PM p.m.

CARRIED