

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
RECREATION, PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 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:

- Brooke Lambert, Chief Administrative Officer
- Tom Bowden, Recreation Services Manager
- Tasha Grafos, Community Recreation Coordinator
- Jessica Turnbull, Administrative Support

Guests:

Robin Sharpe

Calling to Order
Chair McCabe called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
Adoption of Agenda
RESOLUTION RPL 2023-023 Moved by Member Ferguson Seconded by Member Renken THAT the agenda for the June 6, 2023 Township of Wellington North Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Committee meeting be accepted and passed. CARRIED
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
None
Deputation
Robin Sharpe, Roller Skating RESOLUTION RPL 2023-024 Moved by Member Renken Seconded by Member Ferguson THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information the deputation from Robin Sharpe, roller skating advocate. Schedule A CARRIED Ms. Sharpe hopes to implement a roller-skating program in Mount Forest. In the past she has worked with the company Retro Rollers through the Fireworks Festival. Retro

Rollers previously offered a rent to own program, however that is no longer the case. Instead, they offer only a direct purchase option. The suggestion is to get 100 pairs of roller skates at a price of \$29,000. Ms. Sharpe stated that she felt that the potential for this investment could be recouped within 2 years.

Ms. Sharpe mentioned that the town of Clifford may be interested in renting the skates in the winter as they do not put their ice in their arena anymore.

Member Ferguson mentioned the town of Neustadt currently offers roller skating and it is very popular. Ms. Sharpe added the town averages 100 people on Friday nights.

Ms. Sharpe put out a poll on a local social media page that had over 100 people responding that weekend or weekday evenings would be preferred if the program were to be offered.

The CAO suggested a pilot program within the Township to test the interest of our population, adding that before making the investment, the township would want to make sure there is a market for it. Ms. Sharpe added the Fireworks Festival had a minimum of 30-40 skaters on at all times for 4 hours.

Member Renken asked if the program would be only offered in the summer when there is no ice in. Ms. Sharpe explained the township could look to loan the skates to Clifford over the winter months.

Ms. Sharpe discussed the Retro Rollers can offer a maintenance program on each of the skates annually with inspections and adjustments however wear and tear would be the responsibility of the township to maintain. Training manuals and proper care instructions are all offered through this company as well.

Chair McCabe would like to know of the times available in Arthur and Mount Forest and if acquiring sponsors for it would be suitable. Additionally chair McCabe asked if disinfection would be similar to that of bowling. Ms. Sharpe explained that yes there would be the use of a spray for disinfecting but is not sure of the cost.

The skates would be offered in different sizes for men, women and kids ranging from Jr 6 – Men's 15

Member Ferguson asked if the program would allow roller bladers in. Ms Sharpe mentioned it would be up to the township to set up the rules for the skating program.

The CAO suggested staff take away the information presented and review the needs for this type of program, the staffing impacts and availability and put together an outline for council's consideration and what some of the details and budget implications are.

Ms. Sharpe added the program would be similar to public skating where the township offered the facility and would take in an admission and rental fee. There are going to be people who bring their own skates as well. Neustadt charges a \$4.00 entry fee and \$2.00 rental fee.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – April 17, 2023
RESOLUTION RPL 2023-025 Moved by Member Ferguson Seconded by Member Renken THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information the minutes of the April 4, 2023 Committee Meeting. CARRIED
Business Arising From Minutes
None
Ad Hoc Committee Updates – Approved at Meeting of Council May 8, 2023
Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee Minutes of April 25, 2023 RESOLUTION RPL 2023-026 Moved by Member Renken Seconded by Member Ferguson THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information Report RPL 2023- 022 being a report on the updates to the aquatics programming and staffing. CARRIED
Reports
OPS 2023-022 RPL Aquatics Update RESOLUTION RPL 2023-027 Moved by Member Renken Seconded by Member Ferguson THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information Report RPL 2023- 022 being a report on the updates to the aquatics programming and staffing. CARRIED The CRC announced that the Arthur Pool opened on June 5 th , nearly a month early than in the recent past. There is a modified schedule for the month of June to accommodate school swimming and bronze courses. The reasoning behind opening early, the CRC explained, was to primarily to attract new recruits for a lifeguarding career path, in response to a shortage of lifeguards nationwide, and to offer the opportunity to schools to participate in the Swim to Survive program and for general school usage.

Opening early also added two more sessions of swimming lessons and a weekly option on Saturdays from June 24 – August 26. This season we have seven sessions of swimming lessons and 2 sessions of Bronze Programming.

There are 29 kids registered in Session 1, with 11 different swimming lessons happening from 3:30 – 5pm.

The Aquatics Program Coordinator reached out to all local schools – from this there are 5 different schools taking part in the school swimming.

Starting in July, there is a new program called the Community Swim. This is something that we will update the calendar with weekly – as it may not always be open to the general public. Some weeks this will be allocated to community groups or day camp usage. Other weeks it will be the general public - themed swims, games, etc. This will happen on Tuesdays from 10am – 11am

This year the pool will also be open for longer hours. Starting in July, the pool will be open 7am – 8pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am – 8pm and Saturdays 10:30 – 5.

The CRC spoke of the public swim sponsorships, stating that so far, every public swim on Saturdays for the 2023 season has been sponsored.

On opening day of the pool, there were 56 users enjoying the pool. 31 between family swim and public swim and 25 participants for lessons.

OPS 2023-021 RPL Corkage

RESOLUTION RPL 2023-028

Moved by Member Renken

Seconded by Member Ferguson

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information Report OPS 2023-021 Supplying of Corkage to Renters, being a report on the use of corkage in our Facilities;

And further that the committee approve the cancellation of the practice of supplying corkage in our Township facilities.

CARRIED

RSM discussed corkage which consists of bags of ice, 7 oz cups, 14 oz cups, wrist bands, and 2-liter bottles of pop. It is supplied for renters with a Special Occasion Permit (Liquor License). Cups are increasing in costs and are a single use plastic.

The township has never generated profit from this practice and with the Federal governments banning the use of single use plastics (like our cups) this service will be impossible to continue.

Large brewers are already selling mixed drinks in cans in preparation for the loss of plastic cups. Corkage was removed at outdoor facilities now asking to remove from the alcohol policy and stop the practice.

Items for Consideration

Lindsay Smith, Roller Derby

Ms. Smith has advised Township Staff that Roller Derby wishes to withdraw their asks from Townships assistance with Roller Derby in Wellington North.

The CRC received a Text from Lindsay, and the group has pulled back on expanding into Mount Forest at this time.

Day Camp Staff

The CRC discussed summer camp in both Arthur and Mount Forest. Two site leaders started May 8th and the assistant site leaders started June 5th.

Staff are busy scheduling trips, some of which include Mapleton Organics Farm and the Arthur pool.

Sponsorships have been acquired equaling \$4000 to pay for the trips, craft supplies and furniture.

Roundtable

Member Renken brought up the Agricultural Society buildings at the fairgrounds and wondered about the possibility of using one of them for wheelchair accessible sports knowing that many upgrades would be needed.

Member Renken would like to know what the availability is for having such a team and the need for it as well as the use for roller derby and other programs.

RSM mentioned that there hasn't been much thought about it as the Township doesn't acquire them until March 31st, 2024. The initial thought was to use them for storage for parks vehicles and equipment. One building does have water, there is no solid floor in them and no insulation, they are just a steel barn building.

Chair McCabe suggested putting the agricultural Society buildings on the back burner until the Township has possession of them.

Member Renken inquired about having an agreement between the township and the school board where the tennis court at the high school could be utilized by residents.

The CRC has spoken to some community members about the use of the tennis courts for pickleball and there were concerns about the conditions of the courts and this should be considered before entering into an agreement.

The RSM revealed the splash pads opened June 1st and are being well used!
The RSM told the committee that the Owen Sound Attack are looking for a town to host an exhibition game on September 20th, 2023 and that the Township had applied for the opportunity. In an email that came out on June 6, 2023, it was announced that the Mount Forest & District Sports Complex is one of three venues being considered. The organization will conduct site visits and will then make their selection. Minor hockey and the Patriots are both on board for this venture.

Adjournment

RESOLUTION RPL 2023-029

Moved by Member Renken

Seconded by Member Ferguson

THAT the Township of Wellington North Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee meeting of June 6, 2023, be adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

CARRIED