

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

County Council Chambers  
Paris Office  
Monday, August 27, 2007  
7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor Eddy, Councillors Wheat, Schmitt, Haggart, Powell and Chambers.

**Others:** Councillors Atfield and Gatward

**Staff:** Fiebig, Leask, Wamsteeker, Tucker, Ayres, Gaukel, Holmes and Carman

Councillor Wheat in the Chair.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by – Councillor Powell  
Seconded by – Councillor Schmitt

That the Parks and Recreation Committee agenda for August 27, 2007 be approved as printed.

.Carried

### **DELEGATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / PETITIONS**

#### **Brant Cultural Centre**

Kelly Blandin, Program and Event Co-ordinator for the Brant Cultural Centre, briefly outlined the purpose and activities of the Brant Culture Centre, noting in particular plans for youth activities and events. She presented a request for the in-kind rental of the Commemorative Hall at the Syl Apps Community Centre for the Fall Fringe & Music Festival for Youth to be held on October 13, 2007.

Moved by – Councillor Haggart  
Seconded by – Mayor Eddy

That the County of Brant provide use of the Syl Apps Commemorative Hall, if available, as an in kind donation to the Brant Cultural Centre for the Fall Fringe and Music Festival for Youth to be held on October 13, 2007.

. Carried

#### **Brant Waterways – Trails**

Mayor Eddy advised that the County has provided minimal maintenance on the LE&N trail in the past few years through a verbal agreement. However, due to the fact that the County does not have a maintenance agreement with the Grand River Conservation Authority for this trail, no work has been carried out in 2007. In response to a question, Bill Leask advised that the County budgeted \$13,000 for signage and barriers on the TH&B trail, and that no funds were budgeted for maintenance on the LE&N trail.

Councillor Schmitt, as the County representative on the Brant Waterways Foundation, referred to a presentation made by the Foundation in January 2007 advising that they will not be providing any further funding to the County of Brant for trails until such time as the LE&N trail is properly restored and proper maintenance provided.

### **Lois Chowhan – Trails**

Lois Chowhan advised that she had provided funds to the County of Brant to hire Paula Neice as a consultant to undertake a Trails Study in the County of Brant. She was pleased with the report and the public input received through public meetings and the completion of questionnaires. She expressed concern that her donation to the Trails Study would be wasted if Council were to disregard the results of the study and the public input.

Mayor Eddy thanked Ms. Chowhan for her generous contribution that allowed the County to hire the Trails Consultant

### **St. George Lions Club – Addition to the South Dumfries Community Centre**

Harvey Wood, President of the St. George Lions Club, provided information on the history of the St. George Lions Club and the various community projects that the Lions Club has been involved with in the St. George community. The Lions Club has recognized the need for a larger hall for the community, and is willing to work with the County to build a second floor over the proposed addition at the South Dumfries Community Centre in order to expand the current hall capacity of 170 people. He circulated a letter dated March 21, 2007 advising that the St. George Lions Club was prepared to make a down payment of \$100,000, as well as a \$20,000 payment each year for the next eleven years, resulting in a contribution of \$320,000 towards this expansion.

## **MINUTES**

Moved by – Councillor Schmitt  
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That the Parks and Recreation Committee minutes of June 27, July 24 and August 14, 2007 be approved as printed.

.Carried

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1. The draft lease for the Garden of Hope has been forwarded to the Garden of Hope Committee for their review.
2. The draft lease for the management of the Mount Pleasant Community Centre will be forwarded to the Mount Pleasant Optimists for their review.
3. Darin Ayres has been obtaining information from other municipalities in regard to leash-free dog parks in preparation for a staff report on this matter. Councillor Haggart advised that he has received calls from residents who feel that parks for children should take precedence over parks for dogs. He noted that it is important to encourage public participation in any discussions on leash-free dog parks.
4. Parks and Recreation staff is working with Planning staff to arrange for the severance of lots from the property purchased for the expansion of the Mount Pleasant Park.

5. The transfer of the lease between Broadbent Holdings and 172633 Ontario Ltd. for a portion of the South Dumfries Community Centre is awaiting written verification as required from the Solicitor for Broadbent Holdings.
6. Darin Ayres reported that the compressor replacement for the Syl Apps Community Centre has been ordered and will be installed in the late Fall. The ice will be installed at the appropriate time with the old compressor.
7. Mr. Leask reported that construction will be beginning at Penman's Pass next week.

### **CONSENT ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**

The following Consent Items were received as information:

1. Community Services Cheque Register dated July 4, 2007.
2. Community Services Cheque Register dated August 1, 2007.
3. Parks and Recreation Business Status Report.
4. Cobblestone Common Committee Minutes of July 4, 2007.
5. Cobblestone Common Committee Minutes of July 20, 2007.
6. Cobblestone Common Committee Minutes of August 15, 2007.
7. Recreation Programs Activity Report April 1 – June 20, 2007.

### **LAUREL STREET, PARIS**

Moved by – Councillor Haggart  
Seconded by – Councillor Schmitt

That the Parks and Recreation Staff report dated August 22, 2007 regarding the installation of sidewalks and signage on Laurel Street, Paris be referred to the Public Works Committee to undertake a review for implementation in the 2008 budget.

. Carried

### **TRAIL USE FOR THE COUNTY OF BRANT**

The Committee considered a report from Bill Leask, Manager of Parks and Recreation, regarding the Trails Master Plan and a maintenance agreement for the LE&N section of the rail trail from Brantford to Mount Pleasant.

It was noted that the Trails Master Plan will include an implementation strategy, time line and budget for development and maintenance costs of the trails in the County. Mayor Eddy suggested that a small Trails Master Plan working committee of interested citizens be set up to develop the Trails Master Plan. It was suggested that a consultant be hired to develop the Trails Master Plan using a process that includes public input. The staff recommendation is to include funding in the 2008 budget for a Trails Master Plan, and to decide on the next steps in the process to achieve this at a later time. It was also suggested that the Council should not be accepting offers of funding for trails development until such time as the County has approved the Trails Master Plan.

The Committee expressed concern about entering into a Management Agreement with the Grand River Conservation Authority to take over the existing lease between the GRCA and the Ontario Realty Corporation for the LE&N trail. It was also agreed that only basic maintenance should be provided on the trail until such time as the Trails Master Plan has been approved.

Moved by – Councillor Chambers  
Seconded by – Councillor Schmitt

That the County of Brant include funding for a Trails Master Plan in the 2008 budget;

. Carried

Moved by – Councillor Chambers  
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That the County enter into a Maintenance Agreement with the Grand River Conservation Authority for basic maintenance to a standard of safety that is appropriate for the L.E.&N. section of the rail trail from the City of Brantford to the Mount Pleasant Nature Park.

.Carried

### **COBBLESTONE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Moved by – Mayor Eddy  
Seconded by – Councillor Haggart

That the County of Brant enter into a Construction Management Contract with Sierra Construction (Woodstock) Ltd. to provide construction management, site supervision and act as the Constructor as defined by the Ministry of Labour for the construction of the supporting structure of Cobblestone Common as per the J. H. Cohoon Engineering Ltd. drawing #3959, at a cost of \$8,000 plus GST.

. Carried

Moved by – Councillor Haggart  
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That the County of Brant approve the construction of the supporting structure of Cobblestone Common as per J.H. Cohoon Engineering Ltd. Drawing #3959 and the scope of work proposal submitted by Sierra Construction (Woodstock) Ltd., at a budgeted cost of \$67,000 plus GST (including contingency).

. Carried

Moved by – Councillor Haggart  
Seconded by – Councillor Schmitt

That a cheque be issued from the County of Brant Cobblestone Common account made payable to the Paris BIA in the amount of \$4,500.00 to cover the upfront costs of the Ted Reader, Cobblestone Common Fundraiser.

.Carried

Clare Wamsteeker advised that if the Cobblestone Common recommendations are approved by Council on September 4, the work can begin in mid-September with completion estimated for the end of October. Due to the fact that the concrete must be ordered four weeks prior to delivery, staff was requested to take the appropriate measures to expedite this order as soon as possible.

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## **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence Received in Support of Maintaining the Glen Morris Hall.  
Due to concerns about misinformation that has led the residents of Glen Morris to think that the County is closing the Centennial Hall, it was agreed that staff would prepare a letter from the Parks and Recreation Chair clarifying the process that the County is undertaking in their review of all community halls. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to all individuals who have written letters and the Glen Morris Centennial Hall Committee, and copies will be posted at the Glen Morris General Store and Glen Morris Library.
  
2. Request For Partnership to Provide Solar Lighting for the Garden of Hope Project.  
The Committee considered a request from Maverick Signs to contribute towards the cost of providing solar lighting for the Garden of Hope Project. Councillor Haggart pointed out that the park has been developed through donations and work done by volunteers at no cost to the County.

Moved by – Councillor Haggart  
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That Parks and Recreation staff review the 2007 budget to determine if funding to a maximum of \$2,000 is available to provide a grant to the Garden of Hope Committee to install solar lighting in the Garden of Hope.

. Carried

It was suggested that there may be grant funds still available through the Corporate Services 2007 budget.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Brant Waterways Foundation**

The Committee discussed the letter received from the Brant Waterways Foundation on August 23 advising that the Foundation would not be providing any more funding to the County of Brant for eligible projects until such time as the LE&N trail was restored and proper maintenance provided. Although no funds were included in the 2007 budget for maintenance of this trail, there may be funds available from the budget for the work on the TH&B property.

Staff was requested to prepare a response to the Brant Waterways Foundation apologizing for the lack of maintenance on the LE&N trail, and advising that the County is moving forward with a maintenance agreement for the GRCA for this trail. Staff was also requested to prepare a report outlining what is required to provide a minimum standard of maintenance for this trail until such time as the Trails Master Plan is developed.

2. **Offer from the St. George Lions Club**

The Committee discussed the offer from the St. George Lions Club to contribute to the cost of a second floor addition to the South Dumfries Community Centre. It was noted that Clare Wamstecker had prepared a report earlier this year outlining options for the addition to the South Dumfries Community Centre. This report will be circulated to the Committee members for their information.

Councillor Wheat noted that there is also an option to move the St. George Customer Services Office and the Community Policing Office to the Community Centre, and then sell the County building at 5 Main Street North. It was also pointed out that the St. George Lions are the main user of Memorial Hall in St. George, so it may also be possible to dispose of this building which will need extensive upgrades and repairs over the next few years. Councillor Schmitt suggested that a public meeting should be held to receive input from St. George residents on the proposed addition to the St. George Community Centre and the proposal to move the Customer Services Office and the Community Policing Office to the Community Centre.

It was agreed that the Offer from the St. George Lions Club would be referred to staff to prepare a report for the Committee's consideration.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The Committee adjourned at 9:05 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, October 23, 2007, 7:00 p.m. at the County Council Chambers in Paris.

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Secretary