

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

County Council Chambers
7 Broadway Street West
Tuesday, January 27, 2009
7:55 p.m.

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

Regrets: Councillor Hodge

Others: Councillor Simons and Lisa Dalpe, Paris BIA.

Staff: Urbanski, Underwood, Ballantyne, Tucker 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 January 27, 2009, be approved, with an addition regarding Brant Waterways.

.Carried

CONSENT ITEMS

PR-09-03 – Proclamation for “I Love Gymnastics Week” 2009

Moved by – Councillor Schmitt
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

Whereas the County of Brant recognizes that providing opportunities to be physically active contributes to the well-being and health of our community;

And whereas the County of Brant continues to work with Gymnastics Ontario to promote the sport of gymnastics;

Be it hereby resolved that the County of Brant proclaim the week of February 15 – 22, 2009 as “I Love Gymnastics Week”.

.Carried

REPORTS FROM STAFF

PR-09-01 – Request from Paris BIA for Help with Watering Flowers

Members of the Committee discussed a request from the Paris BIA for assistance with watering of planters and hanging baskets in the downtown area during the summer of 2009. Mr. Tucker advised that wages for summer students, water and fuel costs are estimated to be approximately \$3,500. Staff will be evaluating this service and costs at the end of the 2009 season to determine if this service will be continued beyond 2009.

Lisa Dalpe, Co-Chair of the Paris BIA, noted that the BIA is willing to pay the County \$1,000 towards the costs for this service in 2009, and noting that the BIA will be responsible for hiring someone to do the watering on weekends and holidays.

It was suggested that this service should be recognized as an "in kind" service, similar to the provisions that have been made in the 2009 budget for the Burford Lions walkway. Although there are not significant costs to the County, this does take away from other work that the summer students would be doing in the municipality.

Moved by – Councillor Powell
Seconded by – Councillor Haggart

Whereas Cemetery staff have received a request from the Paris B.I.A., for assistance with watering the hanging flower baskets and planter boxes placed in the downtown area of Paris;

And whereas staff is available to assist with watering Monday through Friday June 1, 2009 to August 31, 2009;

Be it hereby resolved that County staff assist the Paris B.I.A. with watering of the hanging flower baskets and planter boxes, on a temporary basis, being Monday through Friday from June 1, 2009 to August 31, 2009;

That the estimated cost of \$3,500 for this service be included in the 2009 budget as a donation in kind from the Cemetery Division budget;

That the Paris B.I.A. contribute \$1,000 towards the cost of this service;

And that in order to determine whether or not it is feasible for the County to continue to provide the Paris B.I.A. with watering assistance, the service be reviewed in advance of the 2010 spring / summer season.

.Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

1. In response to a question, the Director advised that she would be meeting with representatives of the Brant Waterways Foundation regarding the TH&B trail. Mayor Eddy advised that the Foundation may have sufficient funds available in 2009 to construct and pave the trail from the City of Brantford limits to the Norfolk County limits, rather than doing the project over three years. The Brant Waterways Foundation does not want to be held up from doing this work because the Trails Master Plan has not been completed. Mayor Eddy noted that the operating and maintenance costs for the trail would be the responsibility of the County once the trail is completed. Ms. Underwood advised that staff will be presenting a report on the results of the Trails Master Plan Request for Proposals for consideration at the April Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. The Trails Master Plan will address items such as maintenance of the trails and potential development of future trails and will be a tool to assist service clubs in meeting the County's expectations and standards for trails.
2. The Federal Budget released today includes \$500 million for repairs to swimming pools and arenas. The Chair advised that the C.A.O. will be obtaining further information on this announcement.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

1. The Director introduced Kathy Ballantyne, the new Parks and Facilities Manager, and outlined her experience and qualifications.
2. Staff is moving expeditiously on the Request for Quotations for consulting services for the Paris Community Pool, with the expectation that a report will be available for the next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The Paris Lions Club is being kept up to date on this process. Ms. Underwood clarified that the water being lost from the pool was significantly higher than first reported - 90 cubic metres per day instead of 90 gallons per day as originally reported. Councillor Haggart pointed out that no funds for operating the pool have been included in the 2009 budget.
3. Mayor Eddy reported that the Building Division had delivered a notice to all store owners in downtown Paris notifying them of their responsibility under the Property Standards by-law to remove snow, ice and icicles from their property to eliminate unsafe conditions.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, February 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., in the County Council Chambers, Paris.

Secretary