

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

County Council Chambers
Tuesday, October 27, 2009
7:15 p.m.

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

Others: Councillor Simons

Regrets: Councillor Hodge

Staff: Glassford, Ballantyne, Wamsteeker, Ayres and Boyd

Councillor Wheat in the Chair.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by – Councillor Schmitt
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That the Parks and Recreation Committee agenda for October 27, 2009 be approved with the following addition:

- Delegation – Terry Collins – Future Aquatic Services.

.Carried

DELEGATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / PETITIONS

Future Aquatic Services – Terry Collins, as a private resident of Paris, expressed disappointment about the closure of the Lions Park pool and questioned whether a comprehensive study and cost estimate were conducted for repairs to that facility. He emphasized the importance of having recreational swimming facilities available within walking distance for the community in support of healthy lifestyles and environmental / reduction of carbon footprint initiatives. Mr. Collins questioned the need for an indoor pool, suggesting that it may be detrimental to compete with the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre, since the City of Brantford is currently heavily investing in indoor aquatic facilities. Mr. Collins suggested that the proposal to incorporate a “fitness centre” to make the pool financially viable is questionable as this is also a difficult market in the community right now.

MINUTES

Moved by – Mayor Eddy
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That the Parks and Recreation Committee minutes of August 25, 2009, September 1, 2009 and September 22, 2009 be approved as printed.

.Carried

BUSINESS ARISING

1. In response to a question, it was clarified that the works completed by the Paris Parks Foundation in Lions Park involved trail improvements from the park to the Penman's Pass bridge.
2. In response to a question, it was noted that the construction of a pathway through Kings Ward Park is a Public Works project and the Chief Administrative Officer agreed to investigate the status of this project.

CONSENT ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

Moved by – Councillor Haggart
Seconded by – Mayor Eddy

That the following consent items be received as information:

- i. Community Services Department Cheque Register – August, 2009.
- ii. Community Services Department Cheque Register – September, 2009.
- iii. Paris Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes – September 6, 2009.
- iv. South Dumfries Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes – August 24, 2009.
- v. Brantford-Oakland-Onondaga Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes – September 24, 2009.
- vi. Cemetery Advisory Committee Minutes – September 24, 2009.
- vii. Burford Community Centre Building Committee Minutes – October 7, 2009.
- viii. Burford Community Centre Addition Public Meeting – October 15, 2009.
- ix. Burford Community Centre Building Committee Meeting – October 15, 2009.
- x. Glen Morris Centennial Hall Committee Minutes – September 17, 2009.
- xi. Syl Apps Community Centre Repositioning Committee Minutes – September 14, 2009.

.Carried

Councillor Haggart requested an update on the Paris Parks and Facilities Supervisor report regarding the rubberized surface of the splash pad peeling away. He questioned the cost of these works and whether the surface is covered under warranty. It was agreed that staff would investigate these matters and provide a response to Committee.

In response to a question, the Parks and Facilities Manager clarified that the Foxhill Heights Subdivision Agreement requires construction of the park upon 50% completion and that staff is seeking the status of this development to determine if funds for park equipment need to be allocated in the 2010 or 2011 budgets.

PR-09-45 – FUTURE AQUATIC SERVICES

In response to a question, the Chief Administrative Officer clarified that next steps outlined in the report (review concept plans and costing, meet with Shore Tilbe Irwin to discuss preliminary concept plan, inquire about purchasing additional land, develop a Request for Proposals for architectural services and submit a proposal to the Building Canada Fund) would not result in any specific financial costs to the municipality. It is anticipated that more accurate cost information would be available for consideration during 2010 budget deliberations.

Councillor Haggart reported that in discussion with Paris residents, there is overwhelming support for maintaining swimming facilities in the same location at Paris Lions Park and proceeding with whatever works are required to repair or replace the existing pool as soon as possible so that swim facilities are available for the summer of 2010. He expressed concern that an indoor pool at the Twin Pad Complex could neither be completed within a reasonable timeframe nor at a cost that could be withstood by the municipal taxpayers. Councillor Haggart noted that there have been questions raised about the accuracy of cost estimates to either repair the existing pool or to construct a new pool in the same location and suggested that additional costing information for these options be obtained. He further suggested that consideration be given to constructing a new pool within the same footprint and with the same amenities as the existing pool.

Councillor Haggart expressed the opinion that consideration of an indoor pool at the twin pad complex or partnering with the City of Brantford for enhanced aquatic facilities could be a consideration for future Councils, but are not reasonable at this time. He expressed concern about the proposed location of the aquatics facility in front of the new arena complex, which would both reduce the parking space available and take away from the carefully-planned façade of the building.

Moved by – Councillor Schmitt
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

Whereas the Paris Community Pool has reached its projected lifecycle of fifty years;

And Whereas the completion of the 2009 Aquatics Service Review by Clem Pelot Consulting has recommended that the County of Brant pursue the development of a new indoor pool at the Twin Pad Complex site;

Be it hereby resolved that the County of Brant approve in principle the construction of an indoor pool at the site of the Twin Pad Complex;

And that staff be permitted to proceed with the next steps as outlined in this report.

.No Vote – Motion to Amend follows

Councillor Powell suggested an amendment to allow for consideration of an indoor pool at the twin pad complex, a new pool at Lions Park and repairs to the existing pool at Lions Park to proceed concurrently. He further suggested that tenders be called for all three projects so that Committee would have actual costs to consider before a final decision is made. The Chief Administrative Officer cautioned that it would be inappropriate to issue tenders for three different projects at one time, knowing that not all three would be proceeding. In discussion, the Committee concurred that this amendment would significantly change the intent of the recommendation and should be considered as an entirely separate resolution.

Chair Wheat then presented the original motion, as follows:

“Whereas the Paris Community Pool has reached its projected lifecycle of fifty years;

And Whereas the completion of the 2009 Aquatics Service Review by Clem Pelot Consulting has recommended that the County of Brant pursue the development of a new indoor pool at the Twin Pad Complex site;

Be it hereby resolved that the County of Brant approve in principle the construction of an indoor pool at the site of the Twin Pad Complex;

And that staff be permitted to proceed with the next steps as outlined in this report”.

.Defeated

Mayor Eddy spoke in support of maintaining an outdoor swimming pool, noting that the Paris Lions Park pool is a valuable asset to and well supported by the community. Councillor Haggart clarified that he is interested in proceeding with the repair or replacement of the existing pool at Lions Park only at this time. Any consideration for an indoor facility should be a long-term project. He noted that he had previously requested a report on usage of the Paris Lions Park Pool, broken down into categories based on residency. It was agreed that staff would provide this information.

The Chief Administrative Officer suggested that rather than actually calling two tenders for either the repair or the replacement of the pool, staff would prepare draft tenders for Committee’s consideration, working towards both options, while seeking improved cost estimates for the work. He noted that new accessibility legislation would have to be taken into consideration for either option. Councillor Haggart suggested that staff contact two professional industrial pool installation companies requesting an estimate in terms of both the replacement and repair options, including any revisions needed to meet accessibility requirements. He emphasized that the replacement estimate should be based on replacing what currently exists at the pool, not what was recommended by the consultant. The Committee generally concurred with the direction to not consider the installation of an indoor pool at the twin pad complex at this time. The Chief Administrative Officer noted that there would be a cost associated with obtaining the estimates and possibly some preliminary investigative works (i.e. test holes). The Committee concurred with an allocation of \$10,000 towards this work.

Moved by – Councillor Haggart

Seconded by – Councillor Schmitt

That Parks and Recreation staff be instructed to contact two professional industrial pool installation companies to provide cost estimates for repairs to the existing outdoor pool at Lions Park and for the replacement of the existing outdoor pool at Lions Park in the same location and with the same basic amenities;

That any improvements required to meet accessibility requirements or address health and safety issues be included in these cost estimates;

And that staff be authorized to spend up to a maximum of \$10,000 for any costs incurred to acquire these estimates.

.Carried

PR-09-49 – PARIS OPTIMIST CLUB LEASE AGREEMENT – CHARLTON PARK

Councillor Haggart reported on a number of concerns raised by area ratepayers with respect to the proposed skateboard park at Charlton Park, specifically residents of the adjacent apartment complex and homes backing directly onto the park. He recommended that this report be deferred to provide an opportunity for the Councillors of Ward 2 to host a meeting with their residents and the Paris Optimist Club to discuss the proposal. Questions were raised regarding the impact of the park's designation as a "passive use" space and its function as a stormwater retention area on the proposal.

The Parks and Facilities Manager reported that the Paris Optimist Club is eager to finalize the five-year lease agreement at the next Council meeting in order to facilitate their Trillium Funding Grant application this fall. She noted that the skateboard facility would be located so as to minimize its impact on the stormwater management function of the park and that the construction of the park would be in such a manner as to minimize noise impacts on neighbouring residents. In discussion, the Committee concurred that a lease could not be entered into until the ward meeting has been held.

Moved by – Councillor Haggart
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That report PR-09-49 "Paris Optimist Club Lease Agreement – Charlton Park" be deferred for one meeting cycle to facilitate a ward meeting to discuss the proposal with area residents.

.Carried

Councillor Haggart requested that any drawings, diagrams, etc. be made available for the ward meeting.

PR-09-51 – BURFORD SOCCER FIELD EXPANSION

Moved by – Councillor Schmitt
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That report PR-09-51 "Burford Soccer Field Expansion" be circulated to the Burford Soccer Club and Burford Youth Soccer Club;

And that a meeting be facilitated to discuss all options for accommodating the expanding soccer needs in the community.

.Carried

It was agreed that this report would also be circulated to the Brant West Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

PR-09-52 – ICE ALLOCATION POLICY UPDATE

In response to a question, the Parks and Facilities Manager clarified that this policy would apply to all County of Brant arenas. Policies related to Section 1.12 “Regional Minor Groups” would be applicable to minor groups that have registrants from the County of Brant, specifically where that activity is not available through a County of Brant organization (i.e. girls’ minor hockey which is provided by a neighbouring municipality to County residents as there is not a County-based girls’ minor hockey team). It is proposed that these groups would be eligible for some consideration of allocation ahead of other out-of-county and/or non-minor user groups. The Parks and Facilities Manager clarified that it is proposed that the allocation these groups are eligible for would be a function of the percentage of their registration that is County users.

In discussion, concerns were expressed about the potential for misuse of this provision as a way for out-of-County organizations to secure subsidized rates and preferred ice allocations. Questions were raised about if a subsidy were provided based on a percentage of County residents on an out-of-County group, would a similar surcharge be implemented based on the percentage of out-of-County participants in a County group. The Committee generally concurred that groups based in the County would not be penalized for a percentage of non-County residents. Also, the Committee expressed an interest in providing some consideration to those minor groups where County residents participate on a regional team because a county-based organization is not available. Staff was requested to review the wording of these provisions.

In response to a question, the Parks and Facilities Manager clarified that the proposed Ice Allocation Policy deals only with the distribution of ice time, not with ice rental rates. These matters are dealt with through the County’s Fees and Charges By-law and any subsidization could be considered at the time that by-law is reviewed.

Questions were raised about the clause that states that rate increases shall become effective September 1 of each year and will be set one year prior to that date. Concern was expressed that this would pre-empt the discussion of rates as part of yearly budget deliberations. It was suggested that this provision be amended to state that rate increases will be set at the time of budget approval, to be effective September 1 that budget year until the end of that winter season.

In discussion, a suggestion was made that regardless of the policies developed, some flexibility should be granted to the facility operators in terms of ensuring that all of the County’s arenas are fully utilized, even if it means some discount for less-desired ice times. It was further suggested that some consideration may need to be given to the fact that if all of the prime ice time is allocated to local minor sports, there could be a significant loss of revenue over non-subsidized rentals. It is important that the facilities both meet the needs of their prime user groups and are financially viable.

Councillor Haggart sought clarification on the terminology of Provision 5.6 (which states that user groups will have their contract suspended for alcoholic beverages without a permit) and Provision 6.5 (which states that groups will have their ice time cancelled for non-payment of rental fees). It was suggested that more consistent wording be considered and that a formal procedure for these suspensions / cancellations be adopted to ensure that they are consistently applied.

The Committee generally agreed that the report would be deferred for one meeting cycle to provide an opportunity to refine / clarify the provisions discussed above.

Moved by – Councillor Schmitt
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That Staff Report PR-09-52 “Ice Allocation Policy Update” be deferred for one meeting cycle to allow staff an opportunity to refine / revise various provisions.

.Carried

INFORMATION REPORTS

1. PR-09-44 – Closing Of The Nith River Trail

Moved by- Councillor Schmitt
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That report PR-09-44 “Closing of the Nith River Trail” be received as information.

.Carried

2. PR-09-46 – Corporate Healthy Eating Policy Update – Councillor Haggart requested that provisions be incorporated in this policy to deal with the use of plastic water bottles in municipal facilities. The Parks and Facilities Manager suggested that these are separate policy matters. It was generally agreed that given the impact of the water bottle issue on all County departments, this matter would be referred to the Corporate Development Committee for consideration.

Moved by – Councillor Haggart
Seconded by – Mayor Eddy

That the issue of use of plastic water bottles at County of Brant facilities be referred to the Corporate Development Committee for consideration of a policy.

.Carried

Moved by – Councillor Haggart
Seconded by – Councillor Schmitt

That report PR-09-46 “Corporate Healthy Eating Policy Update” be received as information.

.Carried

3. PR-09-47 – Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program Update – Councillor Haggart recommended that a ceremony, similar to that recently held for the JOLT Team members, be arranged to recognize staff involved in this initiative.

Moved by – Councillor Haggart
Seconded by – Councillor Schmitt

That staff members involved in the Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program be recognized at a Brant County Council meeting for their involvement in being recognized as a “Youth Friendly Community Builder Bronze Recognition Level”.

.Carried

4. PR-09-48 – 2009 Summer Aquatic Subsidy Update – Councillor Powell requested a break-down of the 217 participants by residency. It was noted that continuation of the program in 2010 would be subject to budget deliberations and the status of the pool repair / replacement project.

Moved by – Councillor Schmitt
Seconded by - Mayor Eddy

That report PR-09-48 “2009 Summer Aquatic Subsidy Update” be received as information.

.Carried

5. PR-09-50 – Cemetery Work Plan – Councillor Haggart noted that the information contained in this report refutes the statements made by a recent delegation that funds were not being fairly allocated through the various County of Brant cemeteries. It was agreed that this report would be attached to the Committee minutes for Council's information. The Parks and Facilities Manager clarified that the contracted services budget for the Paris Cemetery does not include grass cutting, which is completed by County staff.

Moved by – Councillor Schmitt
Seconded by – Mayor Eddy

That report PR-09-50 “Cemetery Work Plan” be attached to the Committee minutes on the next Council agenda.

.Carried

MATTERS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. Resolution from September 1, 2009 Re: Sale of Portion of Wrought Iron Fence at the Paris Cemetery - in discussion, the Committee generally concurred that the panels were in sufficiently poor condition that they would have no value for sale, given the administrative process that would have to be established to achieve this. It was agreed that the materials would be disposed of as scrap metal.

Moved by – Councillor Schmitt
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That the sections of wrought iron fence at the Paris Cemetery being removed be disposed of as scrap metal.

.Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Councillor Powell congratulated staff and Committee members for the South Dumfries Community Centre Grand Opening and the quality of the renovations to that facility. A special thanks was extended to Clare Wamsteeker, Capital Property Manager, for his contributions and dedication to the project.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

1. The Chief Administrative Official reported on a successful registration for the County's Fall Programs. He noted that the popularity and demand for programs continues to increase, however the County is limited in the types and volume of programming that can be provided, largely due to spatial considerations. The Chief Administrative Official noted that although County Recreation Staff works closely with schools and community centres to secure space, these rentals are sometimes unreliable and subject to last-minute cancellations. Councillor Powell requested a list of any County programs for which there is currently a waiting list of participants.
2. The Parks and Facilities Manager reported that the T.H.&B. Trail has been fully constructed as a paved trail from the City of Brantford / County of Brant border to Burtch Road and as a stonedust trail from Burtch Road to the County of Brant / Norfolk County border. Substantial completion is expected to be granted shortly and the trail will be open to the public once a number of safety issues have been addressed. A grand opening is anticipated for the Spring of 2010.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee adjourned at 9:30 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, December 22, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at the County Council Chambers, Paris Office.

Secretary