

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
RECREATION, PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, July 5, 2022 @ 4:00 P.M.
VIA WEB CONFERENCING**

Committee Members Present:

- Steve McCabe, Councillor, Chair
- Brian Milne, Deputy Mayor, Township of Southgate

Staff Members Present:

- Mandy Jones, Interim Manager Programming and Community Engagement (MPCE)
- Matthew Aston, Director of Operations (DOO)
- Tom Bowden, Recreation Services Manager (RSM)
- Jessica Turnbull, Administrative Support

Guests:

- Andy Lennox, Mayor
- Scott Jones, Arthur Minor Softball Association
- George Laurencic, Mount Forest Lions Club Member

Calling to Order
Chair McCabe called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
Adoption of Agenda
RESOLUTION RPL 2022-039 Moved by Member Milne Seconded by Mayor Lennox THAT the agenda for the July 5, 2022 Township of Wellington North Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee meeting be accepted and passed. CARRIED
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
None
Deputation
Scott Jones – Arthur Minor Softball Association Scott Jones stated that around two weeks ago he made a proposal to switch Arthur minor ball to hardball. He is looking at a similar model to what is used in Mount Forest currently. The idea is for the boys to switch over to hardball at the U13 age group, where the ball diamond would be fine to play on as it is now. The U15 age group they would need 90ft bases, making both existing Arthur diamonds too small. The proposal is to extend the infield on B diamond in Arthur to allow for 90ft bases where U15 hardball can be played. Mr. Jones has spoken with Scott Corrigan the President of Mount Forest Minor Baseball about Arthur and Mount Forest U18 age groups joining as Mount Forest has the baseball diamond sizes to allow for it. In the long-term Mr. Jones is wanting to look at the possibility of extending the fences on B Diamond in

Arthur to allow for U18 hardball to be played. The backstop fencing is in need of an upgrade with higher fencing and extending it back. The proposal was accepted by the organization's executive in hopes for play in the 2023 season. Mr. Jones explained that 2024 would be the target for the infield grass project completion.

Chair McCabe asked about the light standards for the fencing request to move it back further. Mr. Jones explained that if the fencing is moved the outfield, light standards would have to be pushed back. Chair McCabe asked if the diamonds in Mount Forest are suitable for play. Mr. Jones stated that according to Scott Corrigan the diamonds in Mount Forest can be played on for the U18 hardball team. Mr. Jones also mentioned that their organization would be open to a memorandum of understanding for the U18 age groups amalgamating in both towns until Arthur builds a bigger facility or fences can be pushed out.

Mr. Jones stated that a formal discussion about amalgamation has not yet happened, and that Arthur and Mount Forest would be independent entirely except for the U18 age group. It is projected that registration could potentially increase with the implementation of hardball as according to other municipalities that scenario has happened. The main reason to look at switching is that after minor fastpitch there is limited opportunity for boys to continue to play on as many universities and schools play hardball. Additionally, there are more centers around Arthur that are playing hardball which gives more opportunity for competition and tournament options.

The RSM stated that in Mount Forest the Kinsmen Diamond can have U13 and younger play on it and U15 and U18 play at Cork St Diamond. In regard to the B Diamond in Arthur the grass would need to be pushed back 15 feet in order to allow for 90 ft base path. Pushing the backstop back may encroach on wiring and lighting and pushing the outfield fence back would entail moving lighting standards back.

The DOO suggested a staff report for costing, funding opportunities and logistics for review at a future committee meeting.

Mount Forest Lions Club

George Laurencic, Mount Forest Lions Club President stated that Loins Members have been conducting their meetings at the Lower Leisure Hall at the Mount Forest Sports Complex. Mr. Laurencic would like to get a TV in there to allow for a laptop to connect in order to do presentations. This would help modernize the facility and the lions club would help pay for it. The club would like to see the room be called the Mount Forest Loins Den.

Additionally, Mr. Laurencic has been in discussions with the RSM and The Mount Forest Sports Complex Lead Hand about putting in some picnic tables and tree at the Bill Moody Park.

Mayor Lennox asked about timing for this as they are currently talking about naming rights and the possibility of setting a policy for the Township. Lions Member Laurencic stated that there is no rush.

The DOO added that the Lions Club will be approaching Committee in the near future regarding the naming of the splash pad. Mr. Laurencic stated that the Lions Club has

two active members that they would like to name the splash pad after. The club is looking to name the splash pad MacDonald-Schwindt Splash Pad and would like it to be completed within the year.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 7, 2022

RESOLUTION RPL 2022-040

Moved by Mayor Lennox

Seconded by Member Milne

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive the minutes of the June 7, 2022 Committee Meeting.

CARRIED

Business Arising From Minutes

None

Ad Hoc Committee Updates

None

Reports

Naming Rights for Lower Leisure Hall in Mount Forest

Member Milne asked about the naming rights when the Mount Forest arena was built and if there was a policy in place at that time. The DOO clarified that the clerk’s department could investigate that further. The Plume Room at the arena was named as a dedication to Bev Plumes efforts. Member Milne felt certain that there was a policy or something like that in place during the construction of the arena because there were options where you could pay a sum of money and name a dressing room etc. Mayor Lennox suggested naming rights for a period of time and referred to the Air Canada Center where the naming had an expiry date on it which allows for future opportunities.

RESOLUTION RPL 2022-041

Moved by Member Milne

Seconded by Mayor Lennox

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information Report RPL 2022- 013 being a report on naming right’s of the lower leisure hall at the Mount Forest and District Sports Complex; AND FURTHER THAT Committee recommend the Council of the Township of Wellington North direct staff to wait to provide further recommendation with respect the naming rights associated with the lower leisure hall until after a naming rights policy is prepared and approved.

CARRIED

Arthur and Area Community Centre Roof

Mayor Lennox asked for clarification on if it is a full roof replacement and the actual scope of the work needed. The DOO explained that staff are needing to find an architect or engineer who is a flat roof specialist in order to come to a conclusion in

respect to what work is needed to be done. In 2019 the work suggested was putting a new membrane on. From a staff standpoint they would like it to be completed in 2022 but it acknowledges the amount of funding for this project. Chair McCabe asked about the facility maintenance reserve fund. The DOO clarified that the fund is unaudited at this time, and it had about \$450,000 in it and there is capital infrastructure reinvestment reserve which has about 1.3 million dollars in it and these two reserves would be the most applicable to use. Member Milne added that he is inclined to support the entire recommendation in order to get the ball rolling. The DOO explained that the \$350,000 was from the BM Ross 2019 report and was indexed 10% per year.

RESOLUTION RPL 2022-042

Moved by Mayor Lennox

Seconded by Member Milne

THAT the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee receive for information Report RPL 2022- 015 being a report on roof replacement at the Arthur and Area Community Centre; AND FURTHER THAT the Committee recommend the Council of the Township of Wellington North direct staff proceed with a competitive process for the roof replacement at the Arthur and Area Community Centre; AND FURTHER THAT the Committee recommend Council direct staff to allocate \$350,000 for this project; AND FURTHER THAT the Committee recommend Council authorize the Director of Operations, or their designate, to enter an agreement(s) for this project

CARRIED

Items for Consideration

None

Roundtable

Lion Roy Grant Playground Update

The MPCE updated committee on the playground reviewing the sand surfacing removal, and 5 inches of quarter inch stone was laid, and 12 inches of engineered wood fibre was blown in. \$10,000 was received from the County of Wellington from their accessibility fund to help support this project.

OptiMrs Playground Grand Opening

The MPCE discussed the OptiMrs grand opening which took place on Saturday, June 25 with speeches and a ribbon cutting ceremony with free ice cream and free swims.

Arthur Lions Club Skateboard Park Grand Opening

The MPCE spoke to the event and how it had very large, diverse, crowd. Mayor Lennox extended his thanks for getting it opened and asked what the long-term transitions will be for the landscaping between the concrete and lawn. The MPCE explained that in the fall topsoil will be installed where the stone dust is currently, and grass seed will be laid.

Mount Forest Outdoor Pool and Aquatics Centre Project Update

The DOO updated committee that there has been an ongoing conversation at Council related to the pool and aquatics Centre and from a staff standpoint were looking to provide a preferred design concept at this meeting related to receiving the survey feedback. In the agenda package, there is a design concept. Staff needs to better understand what council wishes are for project financing and how financing will impact the design.

Adjournment

RESOLUTION RPL 2022-043

Moved by Mayor Lennox

Seconded by Member Milne

THAT the Township of Wellington North Recreation, Parks and Leisure Committee meeting of July 5, 2022 be adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

CARRIED