

**Recreation Committee Minutes
September 9, 2009
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis
Councillor W. Cormier
Councillor D. Roberts
D. Anderson
L. Boucher
K. Kingston

T. Cameron, Recreation Director
Mayor C. Chisholm
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by D. Anderson
Seconded by K. Kingston
“That the Agenda be approved with additions.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor D. Roberts
Seconded by K. Kingston
“That the Minutes of the June 10, 2009, meeting be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

- Sports Field Update

Mayor C. Chisholm reported on a recent meeting he attended with members of the Antigonish and Town County Recreation Association and Member of Parliament, Mr. P. MacKay to discuss Federal funding availability. The Mayor indicated that the priority for any Federal funding, should it become available, would be for the People’s Place Project (the library).

The Committee briefly discussed other aspects of the project and although it would appear that at this time that funding may be available for Phase III (trail), it is not feasible to visit this portion of the project at the present time.

- Olympic Torch Community Update

Ms. T. Cameron, Recreation Director, updated the Committee and provided the following details: Mr. E. Gillis has agreed to be the torch bearer; Mr. K. Kingston to be the representative on the Entertainment Committee; seeking recommendations for a Chair for the Entertainment Committee; Ms. D. Boucher to be contracted as Events Co-ordinator; Town of Antigonish to supply twelve (12) supports for posts for banners (in-kind); the route is not to be made public until just a couple of days prior to the event; start to finish of the event approximately two (2) hours; and, to date, there has been no response the application for funding in the amount of \$15,000.00.

- Arborist

Ms. T. Cameron noted that the Arborist, Mr. C. Griffiths, worked out well during the season. Councillor D. Roberts advised that there is a recommendation coming from the Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee to secure the services of Mr. C. Griffiths regularly as a seasonal employee (May through September). Ms. T. Cameron enquired as to which Departments budget this would affect.

- Columbus Field

Ms. T. Cameron reported there were a number of issues associated with Columbus Field this summer (i.e. Minor Soccer). The main issues appear to be the quality (or lack thereof) of the field and the loss of the field for an entire month. The quality issue is a direct result of various activities taking place on the field.

Brief discussion took place on issues related to the field; the future direction on the use of the field, contractor obligations; the impact of the St. F.X. Turf field will have on the use of the field; and the lack of scheduling information from Minor Soccer.

It was generally agreed to invite Minor Soccer representatives Mr. Scott. MacKinnon and Darren Thompson, as well as CAO, D. Kampen, to the next meeting (approximately 15 minutes).

Mayor C. Chisholm raised the matter of the availability of fields for use in the County not being used. He further noted that CAO D. Kampen would be addressing the issue of contractor obligations as it relates to a recent infrastructure project at Columbus Field.

- Memorandum of Agreement – St. F.X. University and the Town and County of Antigonish

Ms. T. Cameron distributed copies of the Agreement which still require the signature of St. F.X. University representative, Mr. R. Duff. The document was reviewed and it was noted that Antigonish Minor Football and High School Girls Soccer already have bookings on the field.

- Physical Activity Meeting – September 11, 2009, Guysborough

Ms. T. Cameron advised that she had attended the Physical Activity Meeting recently in Guysborough and noted that the activities being looked at are not just for children (i.e. Active Transportation). She noted the group is also looking at Nordic Walking.

- Summer Camp

It was reported by Ms. T. Cameron that the Summer Camp this year was extremely popular, with very high registration; however, there was some confusion regarding registration procedure. The Camp was able to accommodate all registrants with no waiting list. She noted the issue of not having a facility to meet, needs to be addressed.

- Whidden Street Playground

Ms. T. Cameron noted that some improvements were carried out at the Whidden Street Playground and that two (2) new pieces of playground equipment are to be added.

- Event Tent

The cost to repair the Event Tent were reviewed by Ms. T. Cameron; \$1,625.00 to repair canvas without sidewalls; \$2,275.00 to repair canvas with sidewalls. It was suggested that perhaps monies could be budgeted for repairs for next year. She noted the Tent was purchased in conjunction with the Regional Development Authority and lasted approximately four (4) years.

It was generally agreed that Ms. T. Cameron would bring forth an Agreement, similar to the one used for the saddle tent, for the next meeting.

Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

Other Business

- **Wellness Program**

Councillor D. Roberts questioned where this project was going as she not received any follow-up. Ms. T. Cameron advised her that the information provided to her by the Health Nurse is to be entered into her profile which would then provide her with additional information/direction on her personal health.

- **Fall Swim Program**

Ms. T. Cameron advised that she has been working with the County's Recreation Director, Ms. M. Melanson, to review the feasibility of a joint swim program. The Town's current costs, approximately \$12,000.00/year, and proposed fees for a joint swim program, with the Town's portion proposed at approximately \$15,000.00/year were discussed. L. Boucher noted that if a joint program were to proceed it would also alleviate the time required by Town staff. Ms. T. Cameron noted that by utilizing a different form of advertising this year, the number of participants is increasing. Ms. T. Cameron agreed to meet with Ms. M. Melanson again prior to the next meeting of the Mayor and Warden.

- **Terry Fox Run**

The Committee was advised by Ms. T. Cameron that the Terry Fox Run, being co-ordinated by Mr. R. Conner, will be held this Sunday, September 12, 2009, beginning at the Keating Millennium Centre.

- **Lion and the Lamb Tree Carving re Damage to Base**

Deputy Mayor D. MacInnis advised that damage to the base beneath the Lion and the Lamb tree carving was brought up at a recent Beautification and Land Rehabilitation Committee meeting. It appears that some of the cement base came off when the wooden forms were removed, and therefore appears to be a matter for the contractor to rectify. Ms. T. Cameron agreed to contact the contractor in this regard.

- **Grass**

Councillor W. Cormier questioned whether the grass between medians is mowed after the summer months. Ms. T. Cameron acknowledged that they are but not as often, and with priorities, is not sure it could be mowed on a regular basis in the Fall. Councillor W. Cormier noted he brought this forth as a result of a review of the Unsightly Premises By-law and wanted to ensure the Town would not be taking others to task if the Town were not looking after its own property in a prudent manner.

- **Whidden Street Walkways**

Mayor C. Chisholm noted that the Recreation Director is in the process of having three (3) contractors look at the area, and noted there are more issues than just the walkway itself that need to be addressed. Ms. T. Cameron and Mr. G. Smith are expecting to speak with Mr. K. Proctor, Town Engineer, in the near future regarding this matter.

- Meeting Dates

Mr. K. Kingston advised that he would like to see the meetings moved to any other Wednesday of the month due to prior commitments. Ms. T. Cameron agreed to review the meeting schedule and forward an e-mail to Committee members with possible alternate dates.

Adjournment

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by Councillor D. Roberts

“That the meeting be adjourned.” Motion carried.