

**Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2012
Council Chambers**

Present

Councillor D. MacInnis, Chair
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Councillor S. Cameron
D. Anderson
L. Boucher

T. Cameron, Recreation Director
Mayor C. Chisholm
S. Feist, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by L. Boucher

“That the Agenda be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor S. Cameron

Seconded by D. Anderson

“That the Minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held on January 12, 2012, be approved as circulated.” Motion carried.

Business from Minutes

• Canada Day Activities (Update)

T. Cameron circulated an Agenda outlining Canada Day activities. Councillor S. Cameron provided details on the Pancake Breakfast, transportation of residents to and from Teasdale’s Field, and the fireworks display. It was noted that as cake is not permitted on the artificial turf at St. FX University, cake will be served during the movie being played at Columbus Field the evening prior to Canada Day. In response to a query from Mayor C. Chisholm on the cost for the band, T. Cameron noted that the Town receives package pricing through One Stop Entertainment for both the movie and band.

Brief discussion took place on parking at St. FX University. Councillor S. Cameron noted that the Town’s street sweeper would be required for clean-up on July 2, 2012. CAO S. Feist agreed to email the Town Engineer in this regard.

It was noted that local blueberries and honey would be available at the pancake breakfast. Brief discussion took place on the cost for the Breakfast.

Discussion took place on cost-sharing the cost of the fireworks with the County and it was generally agreed that a letter be forwarded to the County advising that the total cost for the fireworks this year would be \$8,000.00 (including HST).

- Christmas Events (Update)

T. Cameron noted that CAO S. Feist has indicated that access to an on-line survey would be available as part of the Town's website upgrade and that the survey would be used to garner feedback from the public on last years' Christmas events.

Councillor S. Cameron noted he had spoken with the Executive Director of the Antigonish Regional Development Authority (ARDA), who seemed open to co-ordinating Christmas events, he noted however, that they can only co-ordinate, and are not in a position to purchase anything.

It was noted that a letter also needs to be sent to the County of Antigonish in regard to Christmas events.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts brought forth the idea of the Town hiring an Events Co-ordinator noting that the Town had done this in the past. Discussion took place on the matter. CAO S. Feist advised that some municipalities have an events co-ordinator who also has other duties. He noted that there is an internship program available whereby the Town could hire a new graduate for a one (1) year period, and receive \$25,000.00 to be matched for a salary. He further noted this would be an opportunity to see if hiring a permanent events co-ordinator would be viable for the Town.

It was generally agreed to include this in the upcoming budget deliberations.

- Active Transportation Committee (Update)

T. Cameron advised that an Active Transportation sub-committee, two (2) of which are funding partners. She noted they will meet on February 7, 2012.

In response to Mayor C. Chisholm, T. Cameron advise that although she can access 50% funding for an Active Transportation Plan, it will be of no use unless the Town is willing to budget monies for it to be carried out. She spoke briefly on the cost related to trail development and the public's perception that the Town is not taking action on its Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

- Trail Study (Update)

T. Cameron provided the Committee with the proposed time-lines for the Trail Study. In response to Deputy Mayor D. Roberts, she noted that previous information gathered on trail development will be incorporated into the Study.

- Whidden Street Playground (Update)

T. Cameron advised she would be attending a two (2) day training session on 'Bringing Nature to Life' which focuses on connecting children to nature when and where they play. Following this workshop she intends to design this type of activity at the Whidden Street Playground. She noted the training session will be held in Canso (date to be determined) and that she is looking for a volunteer to also attend.

Brief discussion took place on the 'green gym' and T. Cameron agreed to bring information on the 'green gym' to the next meeting.

- Turf Field Maintenance

T. Cameron advised she has been in touch with the company that installed the turf field and that they are looking for a piece of good, used, equipment that would be suitable for maintaining the

artificial turf. They have indicated that a golf cart could be used, or, a lawn tractor with modified wheels. Further to a suggestion, T. Cameron agreed to contact the golf course with regard to golf carts.

- Volunteer of the Year

Information was circulated on the two (2) nominations received for Volunteer of the Year. Following discussion it was generally agreed that two (2) awards be given: one for Volunteer of the Year and one for the Good Neighbor Award. There was general agreement on who should receive the Good Neighbor Award for this year. The Committee was requested to review and score the Volunteer of the Year nominees which will be further discussed at the next meeting. It was noted the Awards are presented during Canada Day celebrations.

Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

Seconded by L. Boucher

“To recommend to Council that T. Walsh be nominated Good Neighbor of the Year.” Motion rescinded.

The Chair agreed to advise Council on the Volunteer of the Year.

Brief discussion took place on the lateness of the fireworks last year. Councillor S. Cameron suggested a letter be directed to the Antigonish Town Fire Department to ensure they would be in attendance during the fireworks.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

New Business

- Strategic Plan

T. Cameron advised she is moving forward with the Strategic Plan and is seeking volunteers to assist in reviewing the goals and strategies. Ms. D. Anderson and Ms. L. Boucher agreed to volunteer,

- Budget Wish List

T. Cameron advised that she will be including the following for budget consideration:

- Active Transportation Plan
- Trail Development
- Playground Development; and
- A Dock for the Landing

She further noted that all but the Dock form part of the Town’s Strategic Plan and request members put forward any other matters they feel should be added.

In response to a query from the Chair, CAO S. Feist advised that budget deliberations will begin sometime in February.

Adjournment

Moved by Mayor C. Chisholm

Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

