



MINUTES

**Public Recreation & Culture Committee
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Council Chambers 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Lori Hoddinott (Meeting Chair), Mayor Mark MacKenzie, Matt Arseneau, Marc Landry, Karin Haelsigg, Darrell Caron, Andris Kalnins, Teresa Bahm

STAFF PRESENT: Andrea Lamontagne, Recreation Director, Recording Secretary

MEDIA PRESENT: Nil.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Peoples.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared at this time.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

3.1 Dated September 13, 2023

RECOMMENDATION-1-2023

Moved by Marc Landry, seconded by Matt Arseneau

THAT the Agenda dated September 13, 2023 be adopted as submitted and circulated.

CARRIED.

4. Delegations and Presentations

4.1 Russell Corbett & Rudi Aksim

Mr. Corbett and Mr. Aksim delivered a presentation speaking to the benefits of planting low maintenance flora that would attract pollinators throughout our properties. This eco-friendly initiative was felt to be ideal at Clay Bank Nature Park for Outdoor Learning. Fletcher Wildlife Garden in Lanark County was noted as an example of a pollinator program.

The Committee thanked Mr. Corbett and Mr. Aksim for their time.

4.2 Heather Lang - Clay Bank Nature Park for Outdoor Learning

Ms. Lang made a presentation on Clay Bank Nature Park for Outdoor Learning. Referencing her vision when she embarked on the betterment of the park in 2015 as a member of council, she noted the significant changes that have been made to date, the addition of annual community events and the future potential of the park, including a stewardship program that would help foster the properties growth in nature-based tourism. Rod Smith on behalf of the Rotary Club joined Ms. Lang to address the Grasslands Stewardship Initiative Grant funding that was secured in 2022. Mr. Smith noted that grass seed, purchased as part of the grant, will need to be spread in the fall of this year.

The Committee thanked Ms. Lang and Mr. Smith for their time and the tremendous effort that they have invested in improving this park.

5. Adoption of Committee Minutes

5.1 Meeting Minutes - June 7 2023

RECOMMENDATION-2-2023

Moved by Andris Kalnins, seconded by Darrell Carson

THAT the Meeting Minutes dated June 7 2023 be adopted as submitted and circulated.

CARRIED.

6. Requests Submitted by Members of the Public

Nil.

7. Reports

7.1 Summer Recreation Report

The Committee discussed implementing paid parking in 2024 at Burnstown Beach to help cover costs of heavy use by the public. The terms of this will be revisited as an agenda topic at a future date.

A. Kalnins noted that he is against the idea of utilizing volunteers for bartending events given the immense responsibility of such a duty and the liability on the Township License.

RECOMMENDATION-3-2023

Moved by Marc Landry, seconded by Matt Arseneau

THAT this reported be accepted as information, as amended.

CARRIED.

The report will be amended to reflect that swimming lessons ended on August 24, 2023.

8. Information Items

8.1 RED Grant Status

A.Lamontagne provided an update on the Rural Economic Development Grant (RED) for Clay Bank Park that was approved in 2022. The grant will support 30% of costs attributed to benches, signage and art displays for the property. The proposed botanical gardens and walking trail have been removed from the plan as the soil does not support sustainable plant growth as seen from the flora on site and the earth is not conducive to supporting heavy machinery required for building the proposed trails.

Committee members suggested connecting a path from the Algonquin/CN Rail trail to the park, crossing Osborne St. A. Lamontagne noted that this was not included in the original proposal; the grant allows for items to be scaled back, but does not allow for new additions.

RECOMMENDATION-4-2023

Moved by Karin Haelssig, seconded by Matt Arseneau
THAT the Committee accept this as information.

CARRIED.

9. Unfinished Business

Nil.

10. New Business

10.1 Appointment of Teresa Bahm to the Public Recreation & Culture Committee

RECOMMENDATION-5-2023

Moved by Karin Haelssig, seconded by Darrell Carson
THAT the Committee accept this as information.

CARRIED.

10.2 White Lake Community Association

Deputy Mayor Hoddinott acknowledged the newly formed White Lake Community Association, headed by Darryl Carson. The Association will represent the community and bring forth recommendations and issues relating to Public Culture and Recreation to the committee. The Committee supports the endeavours of this association.

RECOMMENDATION-6-2023

Moved by Karin Haelssig, seconded by Matt Arseneau
THAT the Committee accept this as information.

CARRIED.

10.3 Recreation Master Plan - Step 1

Deputy Mayor Hoddinott presented Step 1 of the Recreation Master Plan. Staff and Committee members were asked to complete 'homework' and report findings at the next

meeting, Wednesday October 4, 2023. A questionnaire, along with a QR code to access the questionnaire were provided.

- o Program staff are to focus on programming; what works, what doesn't, where to expand – report conclusions.
- o Committee members + input from property maintenance staff are asked to select as few or as many properties as you would like to review: what do you notice when you first arrive to the site, what requires improvements, what draws you to the site. Include ideas that fit into a short term (2 year) and long-term (10 year) scope.

Mayor MacKenzie noted that he would like to see communities organize events in each community as they had before. Referenced White Lake and Braeside communities that ran their own events; staff was not needed.

T. Bahm noted that documenting what is great about the property and including items that the community could help with ie. Items that need to be completed (minor repairs, building a bench) and noting upgrades that have been completed (referenced the refurbishment of the White Lake ball diamond this month) would be beneficial.

K. Haelsigg requested that Recreation Agreements that the Township holds with Arnprior and Renfrew be included in the staff program report.

RECOMMENDATION-7-2023

Moved by Matt Arseneau, seconded by Darrell Carson

***THAT** Recreation Master Plan - Step 1 be accepted as information as submitted and circulated.*

CARRIED.

11. Draft By-Laws

Nil.

12. Public Questions/Comments

Nil.

13. Round Table

13.1 Burnstown United Church

Mayor MacKenzie brought forth the topic of the sale of Burnstown United Church. The last service to be held at this church will be on December 24, 2023. The church proposed that the Township purchase the building and property for use as a community centre. Mayor MacKenzie discussed that the purchase could be funded by running a daycare from the building, noting that there are amenities in place that would be suitable for such a business and that this could also include an indoor summer camp. He felt that the topic could be discussed by the Strategic Planning Committee who would report their findings to Council. T. Bahm noted that ensuring the building is structurally sound will be imperative. If it is, she felt that this could be a good inclusion in the Recreation Master Plan. Deputy Mayor Hoddinott felt that this would fall under economic development. D.

Carson inquired if there is a heritage designation on the building, as this could impact renovations.

14. Notice of Upcoming Meeting Dates

October 4, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

15. Adjournment

The Public Recreation & Culture Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

MEETING CHAIR