



**MINUTES**  
**RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, September 22, 2011**  
**6:00 p.m. – City Hall, Lower Boardroom**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Jim McManaman, Chair  
Councillor Colleen Purdon, Vice Chair  
Councillor Ian Boddy  
Jean Paul Caron  
Paul Foster  
Bob Garnett  
Richard MacDonald  
Sharon McKeachnie  
Mark Rouse  
Kim Williams (Owen Sound Family Y)  
Deborah Young (Councillor – Meaford)

**ABSENT/REGRETS:** Carol Barfoot (Councillor – Georgian Bluffs)  
Ryan Thompson (Councillor - Georgian Bluffs)  
Tom Wiley (Councillor, Georgian Bluffs)

**GUESTS:** Denise Reid, Owen Sound Skating Club  
Catherine Purcell, Director of Community Services, Meaford

**STAFF PRESENT:** Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services  
Craig Ruppenthal, Facilities Manager  
Brenda Dailey, Facilities Booking Coordinator (to 7:00 p.m.)  
Pat Bryant, Administrative Assistant

**1. CALL TO ORDER –6:20 P.M.**

Deborah Young introduced Catherine Purcell, the Director of Community Services for the Municipality of Meaford.

**2. ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

Paul Caron – Buck & Does

**3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF FOR MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES OR LISTED ON THE AGENDA.**

There was none.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

a) **Regular Meeting – August 3, 2011**

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Moved by Paul Foster

**“THAT the minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee meeting held on August 3, 2011 be hereby approved.”**

Carried unanimously

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a) With respect to the August 3, 2011 minutes, item 10 a), Sharon McKeachnie advised that the centre is now called the McQuay Tannery Seniors' Centre. They were unsuccessful in obtaining funding under the New Horizons grant. An interim Board of Directors is now in place and it is anticipated a full time board will be in place in the new year.

**6. DEPUTATIONS**

There was none.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED.**

There was none.

**8. REPORTS AND MATTERS TABLED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED.**

a) **Report from Director of Community Services Re: Ice Allocation Policy – Recommended Modifications**

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The Director of Community Services summarized the current practice for the annual review of the Ice Allocation Policy. Since the review this spring, and with planning for the operation of the new ice facility and discussions with users, a number of items have been identified that were not addressed at that time. Pam thanked Denise Reid, Owen Sound Skating Club and Brenda Dailey for their input in developing the proposed changes to the policy. The changes include the following areas:

- i) Timing of policy review, timing of requests for ice and allocation
- ii) Seasonal users
- iii) Adult ice time allocation

i) Timing of Policy Review: Staff recommend that the policy review occur in early December each year. This change would allow users three months of fall ice operation allowing ample time to identify any issues.

5.4 Deadlines for Ice Requests: Annually requests are submitted in mid June with allocations determined in mid to late July. This timing makes it difficult for user groups to program their fall ice. Staff recommend that ice requests be submitted to the Community Services Department in January each year.

The Junior A and Junior B teams do not receive their game schedules until mid June. However, staff can work with the previous season's schedule and make adjustments accordingly once the schedules are known. The Attack, in particular, has been trying to get the OHL to finalize the schedules earlier.

ii) Seasonal Users: The policy contains a schedule of minor ice sports groups. Staff suggest adding a schedule of seasonal users.

iii) Adult Ice Allocation: The policy outlines the order of priority for all ice users with City programs and minor sports groups having priority over seasonal users who have access to historical ice times. It is important to ensure maximum opportunity for youth to have ice times appropriate to their age level. Staff recommend that adult user groups be allocated ice times after 9 p.m. except where an earlier time may reflect a historical grandfathered ice time.

Upon a question as to registration numbers for minor sports groups, the groups will receive their contracts in February and once they have their registration in the spring, they can cancel ice time accordingly. The 30 day cancellation requirements as per the policy would apply.

Brenda Dailey confirmed that Minor Hockey registration occurs in April and some of the other minor groups are considering moving up their registration dates to early spring as well to allow for spring tryouts.

With respect to a question on historical ice time and new groups, Pam Coulter noted that some of the seasonal user groups have been around for 30 years. It was felt that groups would lose some of their players if dates/times were changed dramatically from their historical ice times. It was suggested undertaking a survey of seasonal groups regarding allocations.

An equitable distribution of prime time and non-prime ice time will have to be allocated to users when the new regional recreation centre is operational.

Committee suggested changing the recommendation wording in section iii to "except where ice is available and not required by youth".

The policy will be modified indicating the areas changed, circulated to the users groups and brought back to Committee and then to Council for approval.

Moved by Paul Caron

**"THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive the report from the Director of Community Services dated September 13, 2011, and recommend that subject to consultation with user groups that Council amend the Ice Allocation Policy to reflect:**

- i. Modified timing for review, request for ice and allocation for fall and summer ice;**
- ii. An appendix to the Policy that outlines the existing users and status re length of time in existence;**
- iii. Adult ice will not be allocated prior to 9 p.m. except where ice is available and not required by youth. The City retains the right to provide ice only at same or similar time. No ice time slot is guaranteed.**

**Exceptions may be granted where the requirements of youth and City recreational users are being met."**

Carried unanimously

Staff suggested that if any user group wishes to use ice in Owen Sound on a regular basis, they should submit a request in writing. Youth who are outside of the City, Meaford or Georgian Bluffs will be required to pay a non-resident user fee.

**b) Report from Director of Community Services Re: Requests from AAA Highlanders**

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In preparation for ice allocations for the new regional recreation centre and a second ice pad, groups and organizations were encouraged to submit requests for ice and floor time in 2012. In response, staff received a request from the AAA Highlanders for the following"

- August/September practice time;
- Monday Clinics – 4.5 hours of ice time required during the season;
- Pre-season Tournament – prior to September 15;
- SCTA March Tournament consisting of approx 9 teams from South Central league to select Provincial championship representative;
- April tryouts – 6 teams require five 1.5 hour time slots during 2 weeks in April.

New Ice Organization

The AAA Highlanders are governed by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and can have players from the Grey Bruce Owen Sound region with a maximum of 3 players from "out of the area". Owen Sound Minor Hockey runs an A rep team, many Additional Entry (AE) teams as well as a growing house league program.

Pam Coulter provided background on ice requirements and needs assessment contained in the Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan.

In terms of the ice allocation policy, she reviewed the criteria of a minor sports group. The AAA Highlanders meet many of the criteria. They will continue to rent ice in other communities. The membership of youth who participate on Highlander teams varies each year, but on average includes approximately 50% or more youth from Owen Sound, Meaford and Georgian Bluffs. This varies by team and by year.

If the AAA Highlanders could not be considered a minor sport group, they could be added as a seasonal organization as they would achieve this criteria.

With respect to the minor rate fee structure, a blended adult/minor rate or non-resident fee for out of area participants could be charged.

The Ice Allocation Policy provides criteria for emerging sports including:

Impact on Existing Users

The impact on existing users is difficult to understand. Minor groups and seasonal organizations have been encouraged to provide their "wish list" of time

for the new centre. Minor hockey has submitted a draft request and additional requests are expected.

With the expectation of earlier ice allocation for the fall 2012 season, some of the Highlander request can be accommodated. This would be an approval in principle subject to the completion of the schedule for the fall which is to be completed this year in January/February and the ability to accommodate existing minor and seasonal organizations.

It is important to note that seasonal groups, in particular adults will need to remain in the non prime hours that are not suitable for youth participants.

New organizations/ programs are to provide for unmet community needs.

There is no AAA hockey in Owen Sound at this time. The provision of a small part of the AAA program in Owen Sound will meet a community need that many families currently drive to participate in. It may also attract more players from within the City if they have the skills to qualify.

Upon a question regarding available ice, the Bayshore Community Centre ice in April would depend on the Owen Sound Attack entering the play-offs. If the City were hosting a Provincial or National event such as the President's Cup, ice would be installed later in the summer at the Bayshore.

The new regional recreation centre will have two pads; one ice pad would be operational year round; the other surface would be for lacrosse from approximately mid-April (shortly after Easter Tournament) to early August.

Moved by Paul Foster

**"THAT Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive the report from the Director of Community Services dated September 13, 2011, and recommend that City Council approve the following:**

- i. That the Highlander AAA organization be thanked for their interesting bringing AAA hockey in part to Owen Sound and for the opportunities this provides for youth, sport tourism and the growth of sport;**
- ii. That the Highlander AAA organization be added as a Seasonal Organization who would pay the Youth rate with the youth from out of area paying the applicable non-resident fee;**
- iii. That the Highlander AAA organization have their request for Ice for the 2012 season approved in principle as outlined in the report dated September 13, 2011 subject to the Community Services Department, in allocating ice, being able to meet the needs of the existing minor sport organization and seasonal users (adults in the time slots that are not earlier than 9 p.m. or in their time slot as grandfathered)."**

Carried unanimously

Brenda Dailey and Denise Reid left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

c) **Tom Thomson Trail Group**

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Pam Coulter briefly summarized the request from the Tom Thomson Trail Group for capital plan work be included in the City's capital budget that Committee considered at its last meeting.

The Tom Thomson Trail Group 2011 plan proposes some stone dust to be installed at the northeast corner of the City at a cost of approximately \$1,000. Staff recommend that the City allocate \$500 of unspent capital for Harrison Park Trail work to the Tom Thomson Trail Group with the 2012 request to be considered as part of the City's overall capital budget.

Committee discussed at length other areas within Harrison Park where the funds could be allocated. The repairs for the wall erosion project was an unplanned for expense completed this summer. The lower channel wall and pedestrian bridge are currently under repair.

Kim Williams declared a conflict of interest regarding this item.

The funds would still be allocated to a trails project just not within Harrison Park. Staff has consulted with the Director of Financial Services regarding this recommendation.

The Committee supported the work undertaken to date by the Group and the City's continued partnership for improving the City's trail system.

Moved by Ian Boddy

**"THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee recommend that the City allocate \$500 of unspent capital from Harrison Park to the Tom Thomson Trail project with the 2012 request to be considered as part of the overall City budget."**

Carried on Endorsed Division with Paul Foster opposed and Kim Williams not voting having earlier disclosed a pecuniary interest

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Paul Caron inquired on the status of the report on Buck & Does. This is with staff and is part of the work plan.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED WHICH IS PRESENTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- a) Memorandum from Acting Deputy Clerk dated February 10, 2011 Re" 'Live Right Now" Initiative
- b) Correspondence – Emma Doherty Re: 'Goose Droppings'
- c) Correspondence from Township of Georgian Bluffs Re: Non residents – Pam Coulter recommended this item be referred to the Negotiating Committee for consideration in the recreation cost sharing agreements.

- d) Project status summary - Staff are to be monitoring usage of Tom Williams and brought forward after the ball season. This will be noted on the summary and staff will bring back a report at the October or November meeting.

Moved by Deborah Young

**"THAT the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee receive correspondence items 10 a), b), c) and d)."**

Carried unanimously

## **11. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at approximately 5:30 p.m. in conjunction with the Victoria Park Master Plan public meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.