

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Municipality of Middlesex Centre Recreation and Facility Services Committee held this date at the Municipal Office, Coldstream.

PRESENT

Al Edmondson, Mayor
Frank Berze, Councillor
John Brennan, Councillor (Chair)
Brian Ritchie, Councillor
Heather Greig, Public Representative
Allan Lamont, Public Representative
Joe Meyer, Public Representative
Janice Silver, Public Representative
Bruce Waddell, Public Representative

Also attending from staff were:

Cathy Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer
Greg Watterton, Acting Manager Recreation & Facility Services
Jim Maguire, Recreation & Facilities Supervisor
Claudia Thar, Secretary, Recreation & Facility Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

4. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2009 MINUTES

Resolution RFC/#06/2009
Moved by Allan Lamont
Seconded by Janice Silver

THAT, the minutes of the February 10, 2009 regular meeting be approved as presented.

- Carried -

4.1 Business Arising from the Minutes

None

5. RECREATION (PARKS)

5.1 Park Inquiries

Committee requested staff to make arrangements for a Spring Parks Tour to be conducted on Saturday April 18, 2009 with a proposed departure from Weldon Park at 8:30 a.m.

Frank Berze inquired about the current condition of the wooded areas in Middlesex Centre parks. Jim Maguire provided an update on the Naturalization Project being undertaken in Weldon Park in conjunction with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Mr. Maguire stated that Stewarts Tree Service completed Phase 1 planting of seedlings last spring. Phases 2 and 3 will be undertaken in April and May this year.

6. RECREATION (Facilities)

6.1 Delegation – Ilderton Minor Hockey Association

Representatives from Ilderton Minor Hockey Association (I.M.H.A.) attended the meeting. Speaking on behalf of I.M.H.A. were Ray Filson and Al Page.

Chair Brennan welcomed the delegation and stated that the two items for discussion at this meeting were office and meeting room space, and matters pertaining to the storage area.

It was clarified that use of the common area meeting room is provided in conjunction with rental of office space at the arena.

Mr. Brennan stated that historically, the municipality has undertaken larger renovations of municipally owned facilities on a one-third / two-thirds cost sharing basis with primary user groups. The background and rationale for the Ilderton Arena storage area renovations was discussed from the point of view of both I.M.H.A. and the Municipality. It was agreed that communication from both sides surrounding this project could have been better at the time.

Mr. Page provided examples of other improvements I.M.H.A. or I.M.H.A. supporters have made at the arena facility and requested if these investments could be taken into consideration. Chair Brennan suggested that I.M.H.A. take this matter back to their Board for further discussion and then bring a proposal to the municipality.

For future consideration, Mr. Page advised the Committee that I.M.H.A.'s business year is July 1st to June 30th and, noting that it's relationship with the municipality comprises approximately sixty percent of their budget, I.M.H.A. are requesting advanced notice and consultation with Middlesex Centre on matters impacting directly or indirectly on either their costs or revenues. Jim Maguire stated that the intention of the municipality last fall was to enter into comprehensive agreements with arena user groups which would cover off all aspects of the relationship including ice time, rental of office space and provision of storage areas. Mr. Maguire noted that such an agreement is currently in place with the other primary arena user group.

Mr. Brennan stated that signboard advertising was not tabled for this meeting, but inquired if Ilderton Minor Hockey wished to be involved in further discussions at such time as the Municipality's advertising policy was under review. I.M.H.A. representatives stated they would like to be involved in discussions if any changes to the present arrangement are being contemplated.

Both groups stressed the importance of ongoing communication between the 'point personnel' in both organizations.

Mr. Brennan thanked the delegation for their attendance at the meeting.

6.2 Facility Inquiries

None at this time.

7. RECREATION (Programming)

7.1 Middlesex Centre Summer Recreation Program (Report RFC 04/09)

Claudia Thar presented the Staff Report noting that planning for the 2009 Summer Recreation Program is underway and that 31 spaces have already been filled through the early registration process. Ms. Thar stated an informal survey of summer camp and child care fees had been undertaken and, despite the modest increase in fees for 2009, the Summer Recreation Program was still an excellent value.

Frank Berze inquired why programming was not offered in Delaware or Komoka? It was noted that the YMCA offer summer day camp programming in Strathroy and Komoka. Joe Meyer suggested perhaps the YMCA could be approached about providing programming in Delaware next year.

Resolution RFC/#07/2009

Moved by Frank Berze

Seconded by Brian Ritchie

THAT, Report RFC04/09 entitled “2009 Summer Recreation Program” be received.

- Carried -

7.2 Programming Inquiries

None at this time.

8. FACILITIES (Libraries)

8.1 Library Inquiries

None at this time.

9. OTHER FACILITIES

9.1 Other Facilities - Inquiries

Al Lamont noted that trees which had previously been left at municipal facilities for recycling have now been removed.

10. OTHER

10.1 Other Inquiries

Janice Silver inquired why all individuals are required to wear a helmet when on the ice at the Ilderton Arena. John Brennan advised this is a liability issue. Jim Maguire stated the requirement is for a “CSA approved helmet”, noting that a bicycle helmet would be acceptable for public skaters. Mr. Maguire further elaborated on the importance of helmets for all individuals noting there are many adult ‘non-skaters’ on the ice during public skating, who could potentially pose a safety concern to themselves and others.

Jim Maguire responded to Frank Berze inquiries regarding public skating times and costs. Based on the availability of a second ice surface in future, Mr. Maguire indicated ideally, two hours per week of public skating time at both facilities, would be sufficient. In accordance with the Fee By-Law there is a nominal charge of \$1.00 for public skating.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

Members reviewed and discussed the summary of Letters of Interest received in relation to Ice Rental at the proposed Wellness and Recreation Centre in Komoka/Kilworth. It was noted there could be some overlapping requests for ice time based on this preliminary information. Jim Maguire advised that potential scheduling conflicts would be resolved through negotiation and prioritization of requests in accordance with the municipality's Ice Allocation Policy.

Frank Berze stated he recently had a discussion with Tri-Township Arena Board member Joe Clarke. Mr. Berze stated that arena finances and operations appear to be going smoothly.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion duly carried, the meeting was adjourned.

John Brennan – Chairperson

Claudia Thar – Recording Secretary