

Minutes of a Town of Pictou Recreation and Parks Committee meeting convened 7:00 pm in the Meeting Room, First Floor Town Hall on the above date. Michelle Young chaired the meeting.

PRESENT: Councillor Eric Daley; Committee members Luke MacDonald, Dave McMullen and Shawn McNamara

ALSO PRESENT: Michelle Young, Recreation Coordinator
Jo-Anne McNamara, Minute Recorder

REGRETS: Councillor Nadine LeBlanc; Committee member Jane Young

1. CALL TO ORDER

M Young called the meeting to order. M Young notified the Committee that Trecia Schell has resigned from the Committee. She will continue to help with special events and projects.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: D McMullen

SECONDED: S McNamara

PRP-11-28-19-2343

MOTION: To approve the agenda as circulated.
MOTION CARRIED

3. REVIEW OF PAST MINUTES

The minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting were reviewed; no errors or omissions noted.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. Committee Members & Chair

Some discussion was held on ways to interest and engage the public to become a Committee member. E Daley noted that the Town is looking for volunteers for several Town Committees. It was suggested to create a monthly press release or story (Your Community Needs You). Each month, the write up would highlight a particular committee giving an explanation of what the committee does and what kind of a time commitment is anticipated. Other ideas included: to provide Town Committee members something in recognition of their work (for example swim pass, free skating); the direct approach in asking identified residents; more use of social media and the Town website; and ways to reach young people such as a Town Instagram account. It was agreed that M Young be the intern chair for now.

M Young will check with Jessica MacIsaac and Gary to see if they are still interested in sitting on the Committee.

b. Skate Park Update

The Skatepark Design Workshop was held on November 3. There were approximately 25 people in attendance. Newline Skateparks, the company contracted to complete the design work and engineered drawings, are based out of Toronto. They just finished the skatepark build in Antigonish. This phase of the project will be completed by March. A geotechnical study and topographical survey were completed by Logan McDowell of Strum this week. This was required in order to complete the design work. To date, fundraising is at \$17,000 and \$30,000 has been received in grant money.

Discussion followed on the splash pad project that a local working group has begun to explore.

c. Youth Centre Update

No updates; several events are planned for over the holidays and kickboxing is ongoing. A few places were suggested as possible locations for the Youth Centre. M Young will pass the information along to Jessica MacIsaac.

d. Fitness Trail

M Young, L MacDonald, J Young and T Schell walked through most of the trails. They are in fairly good shape but will need some trimming, clearing and signage. A map of the trail system was provided to committee members to view with proposed signage locations, parking and entries. M Young will let members know when the next trail meet-up will take place to begin work clearing.

e. Christmas Light Up

Due to the date change, and Westville and New Glasgow's parade dates, the parade component of the event in Pictou is cancelled for this year.

ACTIONS:

- S McNamara reported the B Skrynsky will have 5 people to help onload the truck from the food bank drive
- M Young will touch base with B Skrynsky about helpers and the list of items they would prefer donated
- L MacDonald will let the school know that there will be no parade
- M Young will need help setting up and tear down for the Light Up – L MacDonald will help

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Market Square Update

Enhancements were completed to Market Square this past summer. An accessible pathway is being installed this week so people can access the gazebo and ramp. A resident has offered to purchase a water fountain for the Square, similar to Pictou United Church's garden feature. M

Young asked the Committee to think of possible locations for the water fountain feature and to bring them forth to the next meeting.

b. Accessibility Advisory Committee

There is a provincial mandate to have a local committee in place in 2020. The committee is to consist of at least 50% of individuals who have a disability. An ad has already been placed in the Pictou Advocate.

c. Veterans Drive Playground

The Veterans Drive Playground is in need of revitalization. M Young provided the committee with examples of natural playground features/equipment that are in several playgrounds around Nova Scotia. Committee members will bring ideas back to the next meeting.

7. INFORMATION SHARING

- S McNamara reported that the Lions Club approached the Hector Arena to sponsor free skates. The Club would be interested in sponsoring free swims as well. The pool is currently offering free family swims on Sunday through sponsorship. S McNamara will follow up with the Lions Club as a possible sponsor.
- M Young reported that the Town received an Accessibility Grant from the Province to install accessible washrooms at the pool, which includes a Rick Hanson audit and training for the staff.
- The Pictou Curling Club will be hosting the provincial para-curling event in 2020.

8. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

APPROVED

James J. Ryan
Mayor

Dan Troke
CAO