



BOARD OF PARK MANAGEMENT

A meeting of the Board of Park Management was held on **Monday, December 2, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.** in the **Community Hall Lobby Meeting Room** at the Rotary Complex

PRESENT: Chairman Hanly, Maureen Cocksedge, Carolyn Cuerden, Sheri Maguire, Councilor Beatty, Councilor Henderson.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Craig Machan and Vice Chair Richardson.

STAFF PRESENT: Quin Malott Parks, Forestry & Cemetery Manager.

MINUTES

2841. PRESENTATION: PRIVATE MEMORIAL BENCH REQUEST [NON-STANDARD]
CONTINUED:

Objective: Request received from Lisa Lamb to install a memorial bench in remembrance of her son in Shakespeare Park adjacent to the skateboard facility.

Background and Analysis: Ms. Lamb is requesting a non-standard bench 60 x 20 x 40" high. It would install on a concrete pad with dimension of 70 x 40". The manufacturer is local [name not provided].

Staff Comments: The City of Stratford, under the guidance of the Board of Park Management has a memorial bench program process utilizing consistent bench and bronze plaque.

Lisa Lamb presentation requesting permission to install a memorial bench in memory of her son at Shakespeare Park in the skateboard park area. Lisa Lamb indicated her son passed away 2 years ago and was an avid skateboarder. The requested bench is manufactured locally by Practical Art and a photo was provided to the Board. It is of 12-gauge steel construction, black in colour, satin finish with a powder coating to withstand weathering and would be placed on a concrete base. If approved installation spring 2025.

Lisa Lamb noted that there are a number of different bench designs throughout the city and asked what the City of Stratford standard bench design was. She noted there are four different types of benches at Shakespeare Park

Q. Malott explained that there are in fact 2 different types of memorial benches in the park system, the older design was manufactured by a local welder. The newer standard memorial bench is purchased from manufacturer Barco Inc. The Barco bench

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was previously approved by the Board of Park Management as the standard for the memorial bench program.

Wooden benches present in the main park system are replaced through the memorial bench program at the request of donors. Discussion regarding CRP composite benches.

The dedication on Lisa Lamb's proposed style of bench is embedded as part of the design versus the program benches which have a custom ordered oval bronze plaque added. Ms. Lamb advised that the current program memorial bench was not to her liking.

Board requested photos of both styles of memorial benches that have been used including the discontinued version alongside Ms. Lamb's proposed bench. The issue to be decided at the December Board of Park Management meeting.

Resolution: THAT the photos as requested be distributed to Board members for their review;

THAT staff provide further review comments as appropriate, and

THAT this matter be brought forward on the Board's December meeting agenda for discussion and decision.

Mover: Councillor Beatty

Seconded: C. Machan

Carried.

Continued

As per resolution photos of benches were distributed to Board members. Donors are currently paying \$5,000.00 for bench, plaque, assembling, installation and maintenance. The style of bench currently offered to donors was approved by the Board because they are sturdy, durable with minimal opportunity for irreparable vandalism.

Chairman Hanly gave a summary of the request and issues involved thanking Ms. Lamb for providing the photo of the requested bench design and noting that photos of benches in Shakespeare Park had been circulated to the Board. Ms. Lamb was asked if she had any new information concerning the proposal that she wished to provide the Board. No new information was provided.

Chairman Hanly asked Q. Malott to report any further comments regarding the matter. It was reiterated that the request is for a non-standard memorial bench and explained the history/evolution of the standard benches present in the park. He noted that the

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City's metal benches have proven to be durable with the only maintenance being "touch-up" every 5 years or so.

Board members were given the opportunity to provide their comments. Board practice has been consistent in permitting only a city approved standard design for memorial benches in City parks. From a municipal perspective, it is important that policy be consistently applied. Initially, memorial benches had wooden slats for seating and back areas, transitioning to the most recent metal design with an oval shaped memorial plaque. The City approved benches have proven to be extremely durable with minimal maintenance required.

While the main park system is saturated with memorial benches, new benches are permitted on a replacement basis and in other City parks. There are 30 parks in the City's Park system. Some are smaller local parks; some are recreation oriented while others are broader area parks. The current cost-charge for a memorial bench is \$5,000.00 and includes an allowance for perpetual maintenance. Once installed, the benches are City owned and the municipality's responsibility. Discussion regarding considering different bench designs in different types of City parks [i.e. local, passive, recreation based]. This would require a re-working of park classifications and standards for benches. Permitting new bench designs on a haphazard or a one-off basis is not appropriate and would be opening "Pandora's box". Past Board decision to permit only the city standard memorial bench design for former Mayor Ted Blowes' bench was referenced. Question regarding possible consideration of some type of memorial art design. The City has no guidelines for such, and Parks Board approval would be required if this were to be located in the park system.

Resolution: THAT the Board approve the memorial bench design proposed by Lisa Lam in the Shakespear Park on a one-time basis subject to the memorial display-wording being approved by the Board, with cost and installation details including perpetual care amount allowance being approved by staff.

Mover: Councilor Henderson **Seconder:** S. Maguire **Defeated.**

Lisa Lamb expressed her disappointment in the Board's decision, requested Board member names, and left the meeting.

2842. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act requires any member of a local Board of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a

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member has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of The Board and to otherwise comply with the Act.

None declared.

2843. MINUTES:

Chairman Hanly noted that he omitted getting a motion approving the October meeting minutes at the November meeting and asked that the October meeting minutes be approved today.

Resolution: That THE Minutes of the October 7, 2024 meeting be approved.

Mover: Councilor Beatty **Seconders:** Councilor Henderson **Carried.**

Objective: The minutes from the November 4, 2024, meeting provided for approval.

Resolution: THAT the minutes of the November 4, 2024, meeting be approved.

Mover: Councilor Henderson **Seconders:** M. Cocksedge **Carried.**

2844. THE LOCAL HOOP HOUSE/COLD FRAME PROJECT:

Objective: Lucas Tingle, Farm and Garden Educator at The Local Community Food Centre request. Mr. Tingle in contact with Q. Malott regarding a cold frame with poly walls 50' long by 20'. It will allow a reasonable amount of volume for production. The objective is to demonstrate how to extend the season more efficiently for four seasons growing. The structure will also help the Local provide fresh vegetables from their own farm during the winter and shoulder seasons. It has the potential to be heated in future should the need arise.

Background and Analysis: The farm has grown more organized and better maintained as volunteer support has grown. A two-wheel tractor is to be available this upcoming season allowing increased efficacy in 2025. Adding a cold frame is the next logical step in the process of building the farm out. This initiative will provide a chance to engage the youth more in regard to the teaching farm as growing into the shoulder season can be demonstrated more effectively.

Staff Comments: A cold frame or hoop house are the best options. Consultation with City planners is recommended. Suggest supporting the project.



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Q. Malott provided an overview of the proposal, including location noting the City's Building Department wanted the Board's input as a part of its review of the proposal.

Resolution: THAT the Board approve the Local's proposal for a hoop house/cold frame project at Dufferin Park.

Mover: Councilor Beatty

Seconded: M. Cocksedge

Carried.

2845. ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FIELD WORK REPORT 2024:

Objective: The E & E Committee Ecological Sub-Group Field Work 2024 report provided to the Board for their awareness. It detailed the extensive work of the committee and its many volunteers.

2846. OTHER BUSINESS:

Winter Tennis: No update or further action currently.

Labyrinth: Wrights are pursuing funding options.

Medicine Wheel: Kevin Bonnell, Manager of DEI reaching out to local Indigenous Thinkers for preferred location and concept.

Stratford Furniture: No update or further action currently.

Cricket Pitch: Organizers seeking funding. Informal communication suggests installation fall 2024. Staff noted the cricket pitch proposal is proceeding this fall as the necessary funding is now in place. The site was measured and staked recently, and the aggregate base will be installed shortly with final components being completed spring 2025.

Communities In Bloom Committee has purchased 11 trees which were planted in a circle in the area north of the butterfly gardens and south of the Art Gallery.

Next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is Monday, January 6, 2024.

Motion to adjourn by Maureen Cocksedge, seconded by Carolyn Cuerden at 4:27pm. Carried.