



## **BOARD OF PARK MANAGEMENT**

A meeting of the Board of Park Management was held on **Monday, February 3, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.** in the **Community Hall Lobby Meeting Room** at the Rotary Complex

**PRESENT:** Chairman Hanly, Maureen Cocksedge, Carolyn Cuerden, Craig Machan, Sheri Maguire, Kimberly Richardson, Councillor Beatty,

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Councilor Henderson, Quin Malott – Parks, Forestry & Cemetery Manager

### **MINUTES**

#### **2847. 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 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.

#### **2848. PRESENTATION BY ROTARY CLUB:**

Catherine Hahn, member and Past President of the Stratford Rotary Club and current District Governor, Rotary District 6330 explained the three Rotary Clubs of Stratford's peace pole garden proposal. A detailed description of the proposal was outlined in her letter that was distributed to the board as part of the agenda. The proposal consists of three square poles of varying heights, each featuring "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four different languages on the faces of the poles. A small Rotary logo and/or a QR code will also be on the posts. The poles are white in colour, would be placed in a small garden/landscaped area suitable to City Parks staff and would be in the area of the older installation on the entrance side of the Art Gallery. The Rotary Clubs plan on having the poles installed in advance of a Rotary Conference that is to be held in the Stratford this spring.

Board members had several comments/questions, including: (i) perhaps more than 4 languages could be considered as the 3 poles would have 12 faces; (ii) should the proposed location not work, an alternative location could be in the area of the 12 trees planted by Community In Blooms in the area south-west of the Gallery; (iii) plantings in the garden would have to be approved by City Parks staff and should



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not include any invasive species or poisonous plants; (iv) while maintenance of the garden would be tended to by Parks staff, Pole condition and replacement, when required, should be the responsibility of the Rotary Club.

**Resolution:** That the Board of Parks Management approve in principle the Stratford Rotary Clubs proposal for a Peace Pole Garden in the area in front of the Art Gallery area subject to the following: (i) specifics of the installation of the garden and the poles being approved by City Parks staff; (ii) the information displayed on the poles meeting the City's accessibility requirements; (iii) there be no invasive species or poisonous plants used in the garden area; (iv) there be a formal agreement with the Rotary Club stipulating that the maintenance and replacement of the poles, when required, is the responsibility of the Rotary Club.

Further, should the location as proposed not work, the Board is also supportive of an alternative location in the area of the 12 trees planted by Communities in Blooms in the area southwest of the Gallery.

**Mover:** Councilor Beatty                      **Seconded:** Sheri Maguire                      **Carried.**

### 2849. MINUTES:

**Resolution:** That the Minutes of the December 2, 2024, meeting be approved.

**Mover:** Kimberly Richardson                      **Seconded:** Craig Machan                      **Carried.**

### 2850. PERPETUAL EVENTS:

There were no perpetual or new event proposals for the Board's consideration.

### 2851. OTHER BUSINESS:

Maureen Cocksedge asked that the issue of the Normal School building which is situated in the Upper Queens Park area be discussed. She mentioned that there has been some confusion over what is happening with the building given the recent press coverage about a meeting held by the city with respect to the possible sale of the building. Carolyn noted that this building was one of three Normal Schools in Ontario that were used for teaching teachers in Ontario and that this is the only building remaining.



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Brad Beatty declared a conflict of interest in respect to this matter.

the Chairman indicated that it was his understanding that the City Council is only considering whether the building is surplus to the City's needs and has made no decision concerning the same. The recent meeting reported on in the press was a Public Meeting to obtain feedback/input from the public regarding the future of the building. Should City Council decide that the building is surplus to the City's needs and take action to declare it as surplus, Council would then have to consider how to dispose of the building, who it would be sold to and for what use.

concern was expressed that the Board should have input into what becomes of the building as the building and the lands around it are in the park system. While no resolution was put forward, Board members wanted the minutes to make note of their interest and desire for input in the minutes.

Next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is Monday, March 3rd, 2025.

**Motion to adjourn by Craig Machan, seconded by Carolyn Cuerden at 4:15 pm.**

**Carried.**