



BOARD OF PARK MANAGEMENT

A meeting of the Board of Park Management was held on **Monday, November 3, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.** in the **Games Room** at the Rotary Complex.

PRESENT: Chairman Hanly, Vice Chair Richardson Maureen Cocksedge, Carolyn Cuerden, Craig Machan, Sheri Maguire

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Councilor Brad Beatty, Councilor Bonnie Henderson.

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

MINUTES

2874. 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.

2875. MINUTES:

Objective: The minutes of September 8, 2025, meeting provided for approval.

Resolution: THAT the minutes of September 8, 2025, meeting be approved.

Question regarding follow-up of bylaw/policies etc. Chair instructed will be addressed later in the meeting.

Mover: C. Cuerden

Seconder: S. Maguire

Carried.

2876. ART IN THE PARK:

Objective: Letter of request from Art in the Park executive committee [AITP] requesting additional day be extended into 2026.



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Letter received from Lynne Huras artist and committee member, has been circulated to Board members with the agenda package. AITP request is similar to previous years. Art in the Park added Thursdays in July and August of 2025 to their schedule in addition to the regular Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Staff Recommendation: To allow as outlined. No issues in the past.

Resolution: THAT the Board of Park Management approve the request by Lynne Huras for Art in the Park to add Thursdays in July and August for the 2026 season in addition to their regular Wednesdays and Saturdays. AITP will be required to return to the Board to amend their requirements beyond Wednesdays & Saturdays per the agreement with the City of Stratford.

Mover: M. Cocksedge Second: Vice Chair Richardson Carried.

2877. SHAKESPEAREAN GARDENS FOOTBRIDGE:

Objective: Further to Item #2870 from the September 8th, 2025 regular meeting of the Board, a letter detailing the Board of Park Management decision was sent to Reginald White, Chairman of the Friends of the Shakespearean Gardens group.

Provided to the Board for their awareness.

Q. Malott advised that a letter outlining the Board's September motion regarding this matter has been sent to Reginald White, Chairman of the Friends of the Shakespeare Gardens, and further that he had called Reginald White to let him know the Board's decision.

2878. THOMAS ORR DAM:

Objective: To provide information to the Board of Park Management on follow-up information from Upper Thames River Conservation Authority [UTRCA] on low water levels issue in 2025. From Item #2873: Thomas Orr Dam/Low Lake water levels in August 2025 – the Board members expressed serious concerns about the blockage incident involving the north gate of the Thomas Orr Dam, the resulting low water levels in the lake, and the many impact that resulted from this situation. The Board is interested in knowing the circumstances and reasons that lead to the north gate being raised, the timeliness of any corrective action taken, and what steps are being taken to prevent any similar occurrences in the future.



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UTRCA meeting minutes provided to Board members for their awareness as requested.

Resolution: THAT due to the Board of Park Management's concern regarding UTRCA's non-distribution of their findings in relation to low water levels in August 2025 to the City of Stratford, the Board is directing staff to forward the UTRCA August 18, 2025 report pp. 5-15 to the City Clerk for distribution to Council for discussion.

Mover: Vice Chair Richardson

Seconded: C. Cuerden

Carried.

2879. COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES:

Objective: To update the Board on progress with Countryside Estates Park development.

Darcy Drummond, manager of Recreation and Marketing Community Services, update provided for Board of Park Management member awareness. The lifecycle on the right-hand side provides a synopsis of timeline and types of engagement conducted, and what the next step is.

Once we receive the consultants' final report, there will be an opportunity for the Parks Board to provide additional feedback.

Q. Malott updated the Board on the process to date and commented that he has advised City staff overseeing this park proposal of the Board's desire to see wooded and naturalized areas incorporated in the proposed park design. The Board was interested in seeing a summary of the comments received during the public consultation to better understand what the public wants to see in this proposed park. Q. Malott again confirmed that the Board will be provided with an opportunity to review and comment on any designs put forward by the consultant for this future park area.

2880. OTHER BUSINESS:

Board Policies/Bylaws: A few questions arose. Board members requested that the Parks bylaws be recirculated to the Board for their reference.

Communities in Bloom Conference: attended by approximately 100 people from Canada and abroad including Belgium, Italy and Ireland. Part of the program involved a tour of the City's parkland and area highlights. A couple of the Park Board members participated as speakers and guides. In response to questions from Board members, Quin Malott advised that the program material would be circulated to the Board members. Details forwarded by secretary as requested.



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A Master Gardeners Symposium is being held in Toronto this coming weekend. Carolyn Cuerden and Maureen Cocksedge indicated that they plan on attending.

Recent media reports regarding Province of Ontario's proposed changes to Conservation Authorities were discussed.

Motion to adjourn at 4:35 by Vice Chair Richardson, seconded by S. Maguire.

Next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 1, 2025.