



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Community Services Sub-committee MINUTES

Date: September 16, 2021
Time: 3:30 P.M.
Location: Electronic Meeting

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Sebben - Vice Chair Presiding, Councillor Burbach, Councillor Clifford, Councillor Henderson

Regrets: Councillor Beatty

Staff Present: David St. Louis - Director of Community Services, Michael Mousley - Manager of Transit, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Danielle Clayton - Recording Secretary, Nate Smith - Supervisor of Transit, Brad Hernden - Manager of Recreation and Marketing, Jeff Otten - Recreation Services Coordinator

Also Present: Tim Doherty, Doug Diplock and Murray Patterson

1. Call to Order

The Vice-Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Councillor Beatty provided regrets for this meeting.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council 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 Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of a pecuniary interest were made by a member at the September 17, 2021, Community Services Sub-committee meeting.

3. Delegations

3.1 Delegation by Stratford Basketball Association

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the delegation of Tim Doherty, on behalf of the Stratford Basketball Association, be heard.

Carried

Sub-committee Discussion: Tim Doherty, President of the Stratford Basketball Association, thanked Sub-committee for the opportunity to present. He stated that the Stratford Basketball Association is asking for additional court time throughout the week at the Agriplex. This would help meet the needs of approximately 450 young people. They are requesting the short term use of the 4 courts for one full night between Monday and Thursday to run the house league program and practises for the travel teams. They also requested that a review be conducted on the allocation and access to court time at the Agriplex.

Mr. Doherty advised that there are currently three main issues regarding court time at the Agriplex being equity of access, use of resources and efficiency and the priority of youth. He stated that in previous years, the association has made extensive use of elementary and secondary schools. At this time, they are unable to utilize these spaces and are unsure of when they would be made available. The Basketball Association is currently working with other user groups and the City to run current programs. Mr. Doherty advised that City staff have offered additional court time during Friday evenings. A survey was done with families and board members regarding Friday evenings, and they came to the conclusion that it was not a suitable option for the program. The Association feels that they may lose numbers for their house league programs if Fridays were utilized.

Mr. Doherty advised that with the additional court time on Friday evenings, there would not be enough gym time to run all programs. He noted that on the handout provided to Sub-committee, a few user groups have a disproportionate amount of hours compared to the rest. Saturdays are currently set aside for tournaments and that the Basketball Association is only able to have two per year. They have also been asked to give up

five additional Sundays to allow for tournaments. Mr. Doherty stated that their preferred option is full use of the Agriplex on Wednesday evenings plus an additional 15 hours of court time per week for the travel teams. If this is not possible, they are open to additional time on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday evenings.

In response to Sub-committee questioning, Mr. Doherty advised that badminton and volleyball utilize the Agriplex during the daytime. He stated that they are willing to work together again with the schools when the time is right. He noted that the Stratford Basketball Association takes direction from Huron Perth Public Health, Basketball Ontario and the City regarding hosting travel teams.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Decision: THAT staff be directed to consult with the user groups of the Agriplex regarding court time for their 2021-2022 programs;

AND THAT staff prepare a report with options for the current season.

In response to Sub-committee questioning, the Director of Community Services indicated that the badminton group has agreed to give up their rental on Friday nights. There are currently five year agreements in place for basketball, badminton and volleyball that allocate the current times. The soccer league currently has a permit that is renewed yearly.

The Vice Chair called the question on the motion.

Carried

A member requested that a new Strategic Master Plan for Recreational Services be developed to:

- Determine whether there are sufficient facilities to meet current demand;
- What the current demand is;
- Creating a capacity model;
- Reviewing the condition of existing facilities;
- Addressing important considerations such as the importance of providing a mix of opportunities;

- Development of an outdoor facility booking policy.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the development of a Strategic Master Plan for Recreational Services be referred to staff and to the 2022 budget deliberations.

Discussion was held on the purpose of the plan and use of existing facilities. With respect to the use of the Community Halls at the Rotary Complex for sports activities, the Director advised it is currently not a viable option for user groups. Three halls are being used for the mass vaccination clinic and the federal election. The fourth is being used as the testing centre. The agreement with the health unit is in place until November.

The Vice Chair called the question on the motion.

Carried

3.2 Delegation by Stratford Pickleball Association

Motion by Councillor Clifford

Sub-committee Decision: THAT Doug Diplock and Murray Patterson, on behalf of the Stratford Pickleball Association and Stratford Minor Sports, be heard.

Carried

Sub-committee Discussion: Doug Diplock and Murray Patterson, on behalf of the Stratford Pickleball Association and Stratford Minor Sports, thanked Sub-committee for the opportunity to present. Mr. Diplock indicated that the Pickleball Association is requesting the development of a youth program on outdoor City courts following receipt of a request from the Stratford Minor Sports Council for the creation of a youth program. Currently all outdoor courts are on a first come, first serve basis. They are requesting that two hours per day, 2-3 days per week, during the summer months be allocated to the pickleball youth program.

Phase one would include the rejuvenation of the Shakespeare Street courts. The current court surface would need to be replaced and a barrier installed between the courts that are back to back. Resurfacing and line painting of the courts would provide four regulation sized pickleball courts. The cost to bring these courts up to current standards would be approximately \$15,000.00.

Murray Patterson, President of the Minor Sports Club, stated that he was approached at the end of 2019 by parents questioning whether there was a youth program in place. Currently the association is requesting use of outside courts. In the future, they would like to look at options for utilizing indoor space at schools and the Agriplex.

In response to Sub-committee questioning, the Director of Community Services indicated that the current court surface is an all sport court. At the time of install, they were not aware that the surface would affect pickleball. There have been several attempts to contact the manufacturing company, but information has not been provided. The Director advised that it is a relatively low cost to replace, and it could be included in the 2022 operational budget.

4. Report of the Manager of Recreation and Marketing

4.1 Stratford Pickleball Association Youth Initiative (COM21-011)

Staff Recommendation: THAT Council refer the Youth Initiative request from the Stratford Pickleball Association to staff for further review and analysis, and for the public to be consulted as part of the review.

Motion by Councillor Clifford

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT Council refer the Youth Initiative request from the Stratford Pickleball Association to staff for further review and analysis, and for the public to be consulted as part of the review.

Carried

5. Report of the City Clerk

5.1 Request to Reduce the Number of Citizen Representative Positions on the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee (COM21-009)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Terms of Reference for the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee be amended to reduce the composition of citizen representatives from eight (8) to six (6) positions.

Sub-committee Discussion: The City Clerk reviewed the report. She stated that the request is to amend the number of citizen representatives from eight to six. For the past two years, the City has been unsuccessful in filling the vacant representative position despite advertising on social

media and in the Town Crier. Staff have also received two additional citizen representative resignations.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Terms of Reference for the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee be amended to reduce the composition of citizen representatives from eight (8) to six (6) positions.

Carried

6. Report of the Supervisor of Transit

6.1 Saturday On-Demand Transit Service Update (COM21-010)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Management Report titled Saturday On-Demand Transit Service Update (COM21-010) be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Supervisor of Transit reviewed the report noting that the department has received positive feedback regarding the on-demand Sunday service. There has been an increase in new riders and ride requests. Currently there are approximately 725 registered riders for the On-Demand service.

On Saturday September 4, 2021, a condensed route was added which takes approximately 20 minutes. Riders are able to book rides through smart phones and tablets using the On-Demand Transit app. Citizens are also able to phone the Transit Department, including weekends, to pre-book their rides.

In response to Sub-committee questioning, the Supervisor of Transit indicated that there have been minimal complaints. Typical concerns are raised over the wait time for a bus to arrive or how long citizens are on a bus for. There have been a few technical issues with phone connections but now the phone lines are forwarded to cell phones to ensure that citizens can always book a ride.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Management Report titled Saturday On-Demand Transit Service Update (COM21-010) be received for information.

Carried

7. Report of the Manager of Transit

7.1 Ad-Hoc Transit Committee Update (COM21-012)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Management report titled (COM21-012) be received for information;

AND THAT the Ad-Hoc Transit Committee be disbanded, and any future operational matters concerning transit be brought to the attention of staff or governance related matters to the Community Services Sub-committee.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Transit reviewed the report stating that the current committee term expires September 2021. Currently there is one more meeting scheduled for this month. Meetings have been scheduled every two months, but it has recently been difficult to reach quorum to hold a meeting.

It was questioned whether a meeting is held annually to receive feedback on the transit service from members of the public. The Manager advised the City is required to hold an annual open house to provide citizens with an opportunity to comment on accessibility and transit. It was questioned whether an open house to received feedback on transit could be conducted annually. The Manager advised it could.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Management report titled (COM21-012) be received for information.

Carried

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the request to disband the Ad-Hoc Transit Committee, and to refer any future operational matters concerning transit to the attention of staff or governance related matters to the Community Services Sub-committee, be deferred to the October Community Services Sub-committee.

Carried

8. Department Update

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director advised that most projects in the 2021 capital budget have either been completed or are almost complete. The scissor lift for the facilities department has been deferred to the 2022 budget.

9. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes

There were no Advisory Committee/Outside Board minutes provided to Sub-committee.

10. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Community Services Sub-committee meeting is October 14, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Community Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 3:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:36 P.M.