



BOARD OF PARK MANAGEMENT

A meeting of the Board of Park Management will be held on **Monday, October 7, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.** in the **Community Hall Lobby Meeting Room** at the Rotary Complex

PRESENT: Chairman Hanly, Vice-Chair Kimberley Richardson, Maureen Cocksedge, Carolyn Cuerden, Craig Machan, Sheri Maguire, Councilor Beatty, Councilor Henderson.

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

AGENDA

2825. 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.

2826. PRESENTATION: INVASIVE SPECIE PROGRAM:

Objective: Vanni Azzano UTRCA Community Liaison to discuss City of Stratford invasive species plan.

Staff Comments: This is a synopsis of the community information session scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at Community Hall.

2827. PRESENTATION: ACCESSIBLE KAYAK LAUNCH:

Objective: David Price presenting proposal seeking Board approval for future installation of an accessible kayak/canoe ramp. Proposed location is east end of river adjacent to parking without disruption to regular use and beside existing railing [121 Lakeside Drive N].

Background & Analysis: Stratford lacks accessible infrastructure for individuals with physical limitations rendering it difficult for residents and visitors to participate in kayaking and canoeing. An accessible launch will ensure equal opportunities for all individuals to safely enjoy the Avon River.



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THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends to Community Services and the Board of Park Management a proper accessible curb cut be completed in the north end of the parking lot adjacent to the Upper Queens playground and an accessible pathway be installed from the curb cut to the playground and picnic area.

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends to Community Services and the Board of Park Management investigate adding additional accessible parking spots in both parking lots in Upper Queens Park.

Staff Comments: Current curb cut is located at the north end of the parking lot in Upper Queens Park. Opportunity to reconfigure for ease of access. An accessible pathway can be an addition to the work in conjunction with Accessibility Committee and budgeting.

Recommend Board review AAC implementations requests including addition of accessible parking spots in north and south areas of the playground.

Resolution:

Mover: **Seconded:** **Carried.**

2831. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM "FRIENDSHIP BENCH":

Objective: To replace the wooden friendship bench in Upper Queens Park with yellow CRP plastic bench or a yellow metal bench. Requested presented with suggestion of a different design than currently in place.

Staff Comments: To allow a unique design of bench to replace current wooden friendship bench.

Resolution:

Mover: **Seconded:** **Carried.**

2832. SHAKESPEAREAN GARDENS WOODEN BRIDGE:

Objective: Nathan Bottema, Project Engineer, Infrastructure Services providing analysis regarding Shakespearean Garden inspection. Recommendations provided and feedback required from the Board of Park Management regarding bridge project.



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Background and Analysis: BM Ross conducted an inspection of the Shakespearean Garden Bridge on July 24, 2024 in response to concerns raised in-house. Engineering department conducts regular bridge inspections as mandated. All bridges in Ontario are required to undergo general maintenance inspections at least twice a year and detailed inspections every two years¹. These inspections are conducted under the direction of a professional engineer using the Ministry's Ontario Structure Inspection Manual (OSIM). The Inspection Manual requires biennial inspections of all provincial and municipal bridges.

The recommendation that came back was to either reinforce or replace this bridge. Engineering is of the opinion that reinforcing this bridge again will be a temporary solution and would prefer to see this bridge replaced installed with prefabricated steel structure over a wooden bridge. The OSIM report from 2019 recommended replacement in 1-5 years. Access to the east approach is challenging and the bridge does not adhere to AODA standards. To make it AODA compliant, the approach and grade of the bridge would have to be significantly different.

Engineering sets funds aside to budget for bridge work but a design must be produced first as part of the process.

The bridge existing within parkland requires Board of Park Management input into the project. The question before the Board is whether to accept Engineering's recommendation to replace the bridge with steel as suggested endeavouring to ensure AODA accessibility and reflect historic aesthetics in design.

Staff Comments: Allow Infrastructure Services Department to design an AODA compliant bridge and return to the Board for review/approval.

Q. Malott to consult with Engineering staff regarding cost of project.

C. Cuernden to investigate if there is any historical significance to the bridge and island.

K. Richardson will consult with families who have memorial benches on bridge regarding relocation if bridge is not replaced. Opportunity for collaboration with indigenous community to reinvent the space.

This is a continuation from September 9, 2024 meeting [Item #2821] at the request of Vice Chair Richardson.

2833. OTHER BUSINESS:



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Winter Tennis: No update or further action at this time.

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 at this time.

Cricket Pitch: Organizers seeking funding. Informal communication suggests installation fall 2024.

Outdoor Gym: Has been installed and well received.

Waste Containers North Shore: For discussion.

Upper Queens Park Concession Booth: Vice Chair Richardson requested status update. No developments currently. Opportunity for Direction Wolfe to address at future meeting.

Next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is Monday, November 4, 2024 3:30pm.

Motion to adjourn.