



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

Date: October 17, 2024  
Time: 4:30 P.M.  
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Vice Chair Presiding, Councillor Briscoe, Councillor Sebben, Councillor Wordofa

Regrets: Councillor Beatty - Chair

Staff Present: Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Michael Mousley - Manager of Transit, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Danielle Clayton - Recording Secretary

Also present: Member of the Public

### **1. Call to Order**

The Vice-chair called the Meeting to Order.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

The Vice-Chair read the City of Stratford Respectful Workplace Policy Statement.

### **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 pecuniary interest were made by a member at the October 17, 2024, Community Services Sub-committee meeting.

### 3. Delegations

#### 3.1 Request for Delegation by Andrew Blake

Motion by Councillor Sebben

**Sub-committee Decision: THAT Andrew Blake be heard.**

**Carried**

**Sub-committee Discussion:** Andrew Blake, referring to a PowerPoint presentation, requested a memorial bench be dedicated in honour of his father, Mervyn "Butch" Blake, who worked at the Stratford Festival.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- background information being provided on his family and military service;
- his father having acted in 130 plays for the Stratford Festival;
- seminars and workshops having been provided on theatrical makeup;
- Mervyn Blake having appeared in various television shows and toured with theatre companies;
- Being the first actor to be honoured with a seat at each theatre in Stratford; and
- having received various awards.

Mr. Blake stated that since 2015, he has been advocating for his father to be recognized in the City for his contributions to the Stratford Festival.

In response to Sub-committee questioning, the Director of Community Services stated that on one occasion, a bench was paid for by the Park's Department on the recommendation of the Park's Board for a former long serving staff member.

Discussion took place regarding the various options of recognition for Mr. Blake's father and if the City or Stratford Festival should be the one to recognize him.

Motion by Councillor Sebben

**Sub-committee Decision: THAT the request from Andrew Blake be referred to City staff to investigate options to recognize Mervyn "Butch" Blake for his contributions to the Stratford Festival.**

**Carried**

#### **4. Report of the Manager of Transit**

##### **4.1 Proposed Free Transit Day (COM24-007)**

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Manager of Transit reviewed the management report, highlighting the following:

- a free transit day being proposed on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 in observation of World Transit Day;
- the Business Improvement Area cohosting the event with the Transit Division; and
- the free transit day that took place on September 8, 2023, resulting in a 36% increase in ridership.

In response to Sub-committee questioning, the Manager of Transit advised that this event would be able to take place at any time of the year and does not have to coincide with World Transit Day. There are opportunities to take advantage of the warmer weather in the spring and summer when people are out and about. There will be a media release along with advertising on the City's social media channels and in the newspaper.

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT a Free Transit Day be authorized by waiving transit fares for one (1) day on November 26, 2024;**

**AND THAT the financial transaction be recorded as interfunctional as noted in Report COM24-007.**

**Carried**

## **5. Department Update**

The Director of Community Services provided the following highlights from the departmental updates:

- the calisthenics equipment installation at the Shakespeare Park has been completed;
- fall sport field work has started;
- Stratford Invasive Plant Plan Community Information Session took place on October 9, 2024;
- the inspection of the playground equipment at Milton Street Park to take place prior to opening;
- the Wellness and Multicultural Fair held on September 7, 2024 was a huge success;
- the Mayor's Newcomer Breakfast, bus tour and community celebration took place on October 5, 2024;
- fall and winter programs are now open for registration;
- the William Allman Memorial Arena opened for the season on September 2, 2024;
- the LED lighting retrofit at the Dufferin Arena has been completed; and
- the installation of the accessible ramp and barrier-free entrance at the Administration of Justice building has been awarded.

In response to questioning, the Director advised that grant options are being looked into for the artificial turf and dome at the SERC site. The Director noted that for the winter season, the Boathouse and Destination Stratford's washrooms will be open for public use. It was noted that the City is currently working with the organizers of the parade and more information will be available in the coming weeks.

In response to questioning, the Director indicated that anyone looking for advertising opportunities on bus benches or at the arenas, are to contact the Culture Sport and Sponsorship Coordinator. The Director noted that options are

being looked into regarding the winterization of the washrooms at the William Allman Arena.

**6. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes**

The following Advisory Committee minutes were provided for the information of Sub-committee:

- Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee Minutes of June 5, 2024 and July 4, 2024

**7. Next Sub-committee Meeting**

The next Community Services Sub-committee meeting is November 14, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

It was clarified that the Council Annual Recognition Awards will be held on October 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

**8. Adjournment**

Motion by Councillor Wordofa

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

**Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:12 P.M.