



## **BOARD OF PARK MANAGEMENT**

A meeting of the Board of Park Management will be held on **Monday, June 2, 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, Councilor Brad Beatty, Councilor Bonnie Henderson.

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

### **AGENDA**

#### **2864. 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.

#### **2865. PRESENTATION: (RE)MADE FURNITURE PROJECT:**

**Objective:** Deanna Horton project lead along with Zac Gribble, Executive Director Destination Stratford to provide information on the project status. Graphic example provided for Board member reference regarding location and approximate scale.

#### **Resolution:**

**Mover:** **Seconders:** **Carried.**

#### **2866. MINUTES:**

**Objective:** The minutes from the May 5, 2025, meeting provided for approval.

**Suggested Resolution: THAT the minutes of the May 5, 2025, meeting be approved.**

**Mover:** **Seconders:** **Carried.**

#### **2867. SWAN RELEASE DECISION:**

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**Objective:** Continuation of April 7, 2025 and May 5, 2025 review of swan release from winter returning to park operations versus a scheduled event through CBEAC.

**Background and Analysis: Historically,** the release was centered around the welfare of the swans and best practice in restoring them to nature. The circumstances surrounding the event were expanded through STA to capitalize on garnering interest in Stratford during the theatre off-season beyond the community event practice. Two letters of origin were provided for the Board's information and reference. Councilor Henderson to convey discussion regarding restoration of the release to park operations from last CBEAC meeting.

At regularly scheduled meetings the Board's concerns were raised regarding the sizes of groups attending from outside of the community and the lack of awareness and regard for decorum and safety practices paramount to the best interests of the swan, staff, volunteers and attendees. Overcrowding and encroachment on the swans as they move towards their nesting destination was disquieting for staff and volunteers cordoning the herd.

Benefits of restoring the release to park operations versus an advertised event include opportunity to engage in best practice in restoring the swans to nature when the ice is off the river providing access to their appropriate food source and water. Water levels are restored by UTRCA when the weather and environmental conditions are appropriate, best practice release of the swans for their welfare is optimally guided by these conditions versus an advertised fixed date. Interested parties may still observe the release but the focus of the release is on the welfare of the birds. Smaller, more controlled numbers of attendees should also promote safety for the swans, staff and volunteers.

**Staff Recommendation:** the annual release of swans from winter quarters return to park operations.

**Suggested Resolution: THAT the annual release of swans from winter quarters be restored to park operations.**

**Mover:**

**Seconded:**

**Carried.**

### **2868. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Via email May 26, 2025, Mark Hackett, Manager of Community Facilities advised Quin Malott, Manager of Parks, Forestry & Cemetery that when north shore washrooms were



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opened for the season an issue with the sewage pump was found. There is a blockage in the sewer line that is forcing the line to backup into the washroom. He is in collaboration with the city water department to resolve the issue. Status update is that locates have been requested and when fully received, excavation will begin to repair the issue. Target start was week of May 26, 2025.

The Board of Park Management does not meet in July/August except for urgent calls by the Chair.

**Motion to adjourn.**