



TOWNSHIP OF ESSA

MINUTES OF MEETING of the PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

ESSA ADMINISTRATION CENTRE – May 29, 2019, at 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Sandie Macdonald, Mayor
 Ron Henderson, Councillor
 Willy Parkinson
 Brandy Rafeek

Attended: Colleen Healey-Dowdall, CAO
 Sueanne Archibald, Rec Programmer
 Sherrie Snow, Parks Support Staff

Absent with Regret: Eric Villani and Jim Hunter

The meeting was called to order and the minutes of April 24th accepted as circulated.

Moved by Brandy Rafeek and Seconded by Ron Henderson

“Be it resolved that the minutes of April 24th be accepted”. Carried.

Colleen reviewed the Terms of Reference with the Committee and welcomed input from the Committee as they should be bringing forward ideas as they feel comfortable. Willy was informed of the Conflict of Interest policy. The policy may be brought forward again at a future meeting to ensure that all Members are well informed. All Members were to acknowledge receipt and understanding.

Colleen informed the Committee that Parks Staff has been running down the list from the minutes of the last meeting to get parks in good shape. Items mentioned by baseball associations are being addressed. At issue still is the requested pitching mound for Baxter. A pitching mound was requested by the Ivy Association and also Angus Minor Ball for their select team. Council asked that this matter be researched to know if it was possible to allow a permanent pitching mound to be built in Baxter.

Pitching Mound in Baxter

Willy felt that putting a mound in Baxter is not possible since the diamond in Baxter is too small. It was mentioned that it is not a good idea for softball or slo-pitch teams to be playing on diamonds with mounds as the distance between bases, and the distance between the pitcher's plate and home plate is shorter than for hard ball. The distance between the outfield fence and home plate is 275 feet. The radius for the fence was taken from home plate when the diamond was constructed, but for older kids and adults, the radius should be taken from the pitcher's mound to provide for a larger field. The outfield can't be extended in Baxter due to the position of the lights around the outfield. Would a portable pitching mound be a solution?

A comment was made about the mound becoming a tripping hazard.

Some Committee Members felt that the older teams/hard ball could play out of Angus and suggested that Staff look to shuffling around playing fields amongst teams.

The new Bob Geddes baseball park in Angus has a pitching mound.

Colleen would continue to summarize info collected from Staff from national organizations and report back to Council noting that there did not seem to be interest here to support the request.

Future Plans

There seems to be a lot of interest in lights and converting to LED from the Committee in keeping with resolutions of the last meeting. If lights, then we could charge a higher rental rate for use of diamonds when lights are on. A possible new revenue stream.

When looking at space for new baseball diamonds, Brandy asked Staff to report on the sustainability of the facility and to look at trends and demographics.

Staff was asked to look into providing opportunities for basketball. Further info would be brought back to the Committee before a resolution is considered.

Programs

Colleen introduced Sueanne who organizes programs for the Township as the Program Coordinator. She asked Sueanne to speak to programs.

- Sueanne reported that pickleball is very popular, getting requests from seniors for playing opportunities
- Tennis did not go, tried in the winter in the gym, can try again?
- Will be trying badminton – Special Olympics does this
- Sandie asked about volleyball? Create teams – mixed
- Sandie suggested referring to other municipalities and Sueanne said that, I get good ideas from other municipalities, we work well together
- Hard to get attendance in Thornton
- Sandie asked, what about thai chi and line dancing?
- Brandy – how about trying basketball, people from Baxter driving to Bradford, Barrie and Base; Can have open gym/drop in/ set time or league play

Deputations

Hockey associations were welcomed to the meeting to introduce themselves. None attended although the Angus Minor Hockey Association and Essa Hockey sent regrets.

Colleen relayed a message from Essa Hockey and noted that Staff recently met with the Board of the Thornton Minor Hockey Association. Sandie was contacted by the AMHA who asked that ice be put in, in Angus for September 13th.

Essa Hockey: has 27 ice hockey teams and runs ball hockey in Thornton for all ages of players. A new website and can take registrations and are well organized. Want to work with Essa Township and willing to run leagues of more than just hockey pickleball, baseball, and broomball. Would love to attend another meeting when they are available.

General Discussion on hockey

Essa has an established policy on booking and it was explained to the Committee (Minor hockey then adult gets to book by end of May, then others). The Committee did not express an interest in recommending any changes. The Committee did not want to bump minor boys for tournaments/nor Stallions.

The Committee supported last year's decision to make ice for mid-September.

The Committee supported the previous decision on Timbit hockey.

Sandie asked for clarification on the cancellation policy. Sherrie: once taken they are on the hook for this, can't give back, they can trade.

Open Discussion

Sandie opened the meeting up to members.

Brandy asked about collecting ideas for programs and suggestions. Sueanne explained about how she finds out about ideas, she welcomes suggestions. Suggested to use social media even more.

Brandy suggested painting idea. What about family classes?

Sandie would like a teach a child to fish class

Sueanne has collected lots of ideas, she tries to stay local, find local instructors.

Discussion on use of parks for Organized Classes

Sandie presented an email request to run a boot camp in a park. Policy right now allows although the Committee felt that this may be a growing trend and we should start to develop a policy on this. Discussion of liability. Other municipal policies will be collected.

Moved by Brandy Rafeek and Seconded by Willy Parkinson

Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm and the Committee will meet again at the call of the Chair.