



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Name:	Recreation Committee Meeting	
Meeting Location:	M/B Council Chambers	
Date / Time:	Mar 1, 2017	7:00pm – 9:10pm
Minutes Prepared By:	Geoff Patterson	

1. Purpose

Regular Rec Committee meeting

2. Attendance

Name	Present	Name	Present
Ryan Marcellus	regret	Matt Arseneau	y
Jason Marshall	y	Geoff Patterson	y
John Robertson	regret		
Teresa Bahm	y		
Darcy Wall	y		

3. Agenda

No.	Subject	Responsible
1	Call to Order/Welcome/Attendance	JM/GP
2	Adoption of Agenda	JM
3	Declaration of pecuniary interest	JM
4	Delegations –Scottish Festival rep	
5	adopt previous minutes from February	JM
6	Follow up business from minutes	All
7	Correspondence-Directors facility and event update/note from Ryan Marcellus	GP
8	Visioning Exercise Special events proposed Summer Schedule	All
9	HERBFEST	All
10	New/Other business – Relay update/ White Lake Carnival	All
11	Next meeting/adjournment	All

4. Action Items:

No	Actions, Decisions and Important Issues	Responsible	Status	Closure Date
1	The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Rec Chair Marshall and attendance was taken by Rec Director Patterson.	JM GP	Open	
2.	Committee member Darcy Wall moved that the agenda be adopted and Committee member Matthew Arseneau seconded. CARRIED.	JM	closed	17/3/1
3	The Chair invited members to declare items of pecuniary interest and no declarations of pecuniary interest were made by the group.	JM	closed	17/3/1
4.	Committee heard from Virginia MacLaren this evening as she was representing the Scottish Festival organizers, most notably past co-Chairs Boyd and Roseann MacLaren. Some recent correspondence came to light as Mr. MacLaren recently circulated a letter he signed on behalf of the Celtic Heritage Society stating that the group wished to see some form of the Scottish festival continue during the 2017 calendar year, rather than postponing it till 2018 in recognition of Canada's 150 th birthday in favor of a special one-time relay event that was being organized by a group of volunteers. Ms. MacLaren spoke on behalf of the Scottish festival and stated she had resources to put a children's component together which could be an element of a 2017 Festival. Ms. MacLaren spoke of a heritage/historical scavenger hunt concept that could be executed at Braeside she believed. Committee member Matthew Arseneau added that the geocache element would be a good component to add to that concept, which would make it more attractive for teens, to which Ms. MacLaren noted that she often heard feedback that our events in the Township did not have enough for kids to do. Virginia also spoke of the concern about their group having to make promises to pipe bands about returning to play for the Scottish Festival in 2017, and now having to possibly revoke on these promises. The Chair mentioned that perhaps a Band or 2 may be worked into the Relay program itself but he would have to see how his group felt about that during a March 6 relay meeting. Ms. MacLaren seemed comfortable with that initiative, however, she also noted that the organizing Committee thought that a Friday afternoon/evening program may be a feasible way to keep the Scottish Festival going and also serve as an introduction to the Relay event itself. It could be modeled after past "Calling of the Clans" and "Mudmen" style events which the Scottish group had overseen in the past, she noted.			
5	Recreation Director Patterson circulated Recreation Committee meeting minutes from February which were also approved, moved by Committee member Darcy Wall, seconded by committee Chair Jason Marshall. Carried.	JM	closed	17/3/1
6	Business arising from past minutes included a report from Darcy Wall to committee about the February moonlight snowshoe outing planned and executed by the Trails focus group. The outing was quite successful attracting 17 participants at the Perneel Building. The group then snowshoed over to Alex Stewart Park and around the area for approximately one hour as Mr. Wall explained. The event attracted a great diversity in ages, ranging from a toddler carried in a pack sack on mom's back to several senior citizens who also participated. A campfire was held to end the outing and some snacks and beverages were provided courtesy of Tim Hortons. The Trails group were enthused by the response and would like to be able to offer the outing again.	GP JM	closed	17/3/1

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7	<p>Correspondence included the Director's verbal update on programs/facilities and special events. Dates were highlighted including Earth Day Community Clean up April 22nd. He noted summer event planning is underway and 8 tournaments are already tentatively booked at MCP for the summer along with rugby dates at Dochart Park. Another archery session is due to start after the March break and registration is underway for that along with minor ball. Preparation for all spring/summer programming and special events is well underway and is the current focus of the Department he explained.</p> <p>A note from Rec Committee member Ryan Marcellus was reviewed by the group in which Mr. Marcellus requested a leave of absence from Committee group for the summer to due time consuming job demands. The group unanimously wished to extend this reasonable request to Mr. Marcellus as he's a very valuable part of the group with extensive knowledge and sincerely hope he is able to return to Committee when the summer is over and work slows down a bit for him. It is also noted that meanwhile, the Committee wished that Mr Marcellus will continue to receive all updates, minutes and information related to the Rec Committee business, so if he is a able to re-join in the fall, he will be somewhat up-to-speed on pertinent issues.</p>	GP	open	17/3/1

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8	<p>Committee, once again, discussed future special events at this month's visioning exercise as Chair Marshall led discussion after noting the presentation by meeting delegate Virginia MacLaren who spoke on behalf of MacLarens about their tentative plans for the upcoming summer regarding the Scottish Festival. Mr. Patterson elaborated on a memo outlining the conversation he had with Mr. and Mrs MacLaren January 27 and how they had a positive reaction to the 150 relay concept, wishing to add some input about potential components of the event, but generally they were quite supportive of the project. Now in contrast to that, Mr. MacLaren had recently signed a letter from the Celtic Association that expressed concern about putting the Scottish Festival on a 1 year hiatus. Primarily, they wondered if some of the pipe bands could be incorporated into the new program as a way of including them in the festivity as they had been promised some type of guaranteed spot in the Scottish Festival in 2017.</p> <p>Chair Marshall and the Recreation Director expressed that the letter they had received from Boyd was somewhat confusing, compared to what he had spoken to Mr. Patterson about a couple of weeks ago. Chair Marshall felt the Scottish group seemed to think there would automatically be a 2018 Festival but was concerned about that sentiment, given the nature of the time frame before that date and an unsure political climate with respect to budgets and financing from year to year. The Rec Committee also felt that if the Festival was executed in 2018, it would have to be named something different because they maintained that the Scottish Festival title continues to limit interest and participation by people from other cultures.</p> <p>During her presentation, Ms. MacLaren was not 100% sure of the status of the co-chairs for the Scottish festival. The Director cited an earlier meeting with Boyd and Rose, when they said that Mackie MacLaren would be too busy with his employment responsibilities to take on the leadership roles required associated with the event, and his-co-Chair Mary Campbell was not reachable so her status was up in the air as an event Co-Chair as well.</p> <p>The Rec Committee discussed the Scottish Festival event and concurred that they are in favor of the concept of the event although they had concerns: 1) they believe the Scottish festival name is somewhat restrictive for future growth and perhaps could be changed to more openly accommodate all cultures, 2) the 4pm till 10pm plus concept seems excessive and timing should be shortened if possible.</p> <p>Discussion continued and other options for the Scottish group included perhaps not executing their event as a pure "stand alone" event, rather beginning it and having the peak of the event tie in with the "baton" arrival during the 150 relay. Then once the Relay portion is ready to leave, allowing the baton to continue on its' way and the Scottish group then continue to celebrate with other act(s) and those that wish to stay could stay and those that wish to travel on with the baton could go onward. Another option discussed was for the group to initiate their event on Canada Day, itself. It could be an option for early evening in White Lake at the Museum with some music, food and celebration from 4-8pm, which would give patrons plenty of time to get to Arnprior in plenty of time to enjoy the fireworks show with their families.</p> <p>Moved by Darcy Wall seconded by Matt Arseneau that Council accept M/B Relay on June 24th, Canada Day July 1st and Herbfest July 30th as the major components of McNab/Braeside Township the summer festival menu for 2017. Carried</p>	JM	open	
9	<p>The Committee recently appointed by Council to govern HERBFEST was going to meet the following night and Rec Director Patterson agreed to provide a full update to Rec Committee members at the April meeting to bring them up to speed on the latest developments with respect to the July 30th event. Darcy Wall added that a component of the festival should be education, specifically regarding invasive species such as hogweed. Chair Marshall inquired as to whether Jeff Muzzi was still a County employee as he was an expert on the subject. Mr. Patterson responded that he believed Mr. Muzzi to have left his post with Renfrew County.</p>	GP	Open	

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10	<p>Committee heard an item of business from Darcy Wall citing a tentative agreement he had reached with nearby landowner Paul Neil which would allow the Trails group to link up Perneel, Alex Stewart Park and McNab Public School as Mr. Neil is going to allow for the Trails group to utilize some of his land for these purposes. Darcy explained that this gesture by Mr. Neil is a key ingredient to being able to develop a future trail system within the aforementioned 3 parcels of land. One of the first projects he anticipates will be establishing some trail that may be used for cross-country running and training purposes for athletes at the local School and perhaps having the potential to pursue hosting a County championship. Committee member Arseneau said he could help gather informed sources about cross country meets at the School Board at the time when we are about to take the next step with this project.</p> <p>In unrelated other business, Mr. Arseneau also wondered if the Township should be taking a pro-active stance on providing an information session to those concerned parents about recent drug scares relating to teens. He noted that there are problems nearby and that maybe we should consider hosting an info night, perhaps at the School or even Council Chambers about this dangerous new disturbing trend. The group wasn't sure if this was something the Rec Department should be steering but felt that Council should have a chance to weigh in on the situation or at least get it on their radar. Potential partners could be the M/B Fire Department or the Renfrew County Health Unit or paramedics.</p>	GP	open	
10 b	<p>The Committee heard from Teresa Bahm about the White Lake Park Winter Carnival. Obviously, with the rain on February 25th the planned outdoor activities were altered greatly and couldn't be fully executed and very few patrons were able to come out. However, Ms. Bahm noted that the meal-oriented indoor activities drew good crowds which salvaged the day somewhat. She noted that community groups such as the M/B Firefighters, Womens Institute ladies and the Church group were important factors during the days' events. The Committee looked at the date and wondered if an earlier time for the carnival should be executed as several members of the Committee received feedback that the Carnival, it was felt, occurred too late in the winter season. This prompted debate and other tentative dates were examined in relation to other competing events that also are held during a similar time frame such as the Firemen's Valentines Ball and the Optimist Carnival in Arnprior. There was much discussion about moving the event up to make it happen earlier on the calendar year to hopefully get better weather. It was noted that although it's been unseasonably warm 2 out of the 3 last years on this weekend, last year it was brutally cold and windy. A date the group wished to consider will be Feb 17, 2018 and that tentative time frame will be floated with organizers.</p> <p>The group spoke of the adding logging-oriented carnival events to the menu such as log sawing and tea-boiling to accommodate some of the adult attendees and there was also discussion about adding the fishing tournament component to the Carnival as well.</p> <p>There were some leftover donations she noted in terms of food so the organizers were talking of re-scheduling the Fire vs Rec Challenge since the ice hockey could not go ahead during the rain. A Spring ball hockey challenge was one of the options discussed which will be followed up upon at a later date.</p>	JM	open	
11	<p>Committee member Teresa Bahm moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm and Committee Chair Darcy Wall seconded. All were in favor. The next meeting is scheduled for Apr. 5, 2017 at 7pm. <i>No further action necessary.</i></p>	JM	Closed	17/3/1