

Minutes
Merrickville Wolford Recreation Advisory Committee
Council Chambers, Merrickville

Date: March 4, 2013

Members Attended:

Brian McDougall, Troy Murphy, Marcia Wilson, Rhys Knott, Dave Snowdon, Ann Barr

Regrets: Ed Yeoumans, Kim Matte

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof: none noted

Additions to Agenda:

Ann Barr on budget matters affecting recreation.
Batting cage and fences for Easton's Corners ball diamond.
Rental rates for halls.

Adoption of Agenda:

Moved: Brian McDougall
Second: Troy Murphy

Adoption of Minutes of Last Meeting: Rhys Knott reported that the minutes are unavailable at this time.

Delegations: Merrickville Soccer Club

Marc Bergeron and Joanne Russo told the committee that the soccer club is a non-profit which operates on a break even basis and has a small contingency fund. The Merrickville Soccer Club is a member of the Eastern Ontario District Soccer Association and the Canadian Soccer Association. There are 150 children and youth playing soccer with the club. Each year a few participants who would otherwise be unable to play are subsidized.

At this point in time the main need for the club is storage space, both long term storage when there are no games and during the playing season when there is a need to store nets, balls, cones and field marking equipment close to the playing fields.

Please see Motions A & B below.

Old Business:

1 - Facilities Update

A - Toboggan Hill: the season for the Toboggan hill has been over since the last large snowfall. The top of the hill is now icy and bare in spots while lower down the snow is so deep that sleds and toboggans were sinking into it and unable to move. It is not clear whether the work on shaping the hill last year or the unusual weather we have had this winter are responsible for these conditions. It is still difficult for children to get back up to the top of the hill due to the steep slopes on all sides.

Please see Motion C below.

2 - Troy Murphy updated us on the use of Facebook to organize and gauge interest in baseball this summer.

3 - Committee Response to staff recommendation regarding governance of Merrickville District Trails Society

After some conversation the committee accepted the staff recommendation that a Recreational Trails Subcommittee be created under the Merrickville-Wolford Recreation Advisory Committee and that members of the Merrickville District Trails Society shall participate in the subcommittee.

4 - Recreation Questionnaires

A draft template for the questionnaire was presented for comment and it will be used to develop the Questionnaire

New Business:

5 - Councillor Barr brought the committee up to date on the impact of recreation related items in the draft budget and how monies from upper levels of government will be allocated to Recreation facilities.

6 - Members expressed concern about the lack of progress in rebuilding the batting cage and restoring fencing to the Easton's Corners ball diamond. It was recognized that staff is working to get the batting cage rebuilt despite problems and the fence is a long term project.

7 - Members reported some discrepancies in prices given to individuals and groups who wish to rent municipal facilities. There was also some discussion about complaints about the condition of facilities. Councillor Barr will provide copies of the Rental Procedures to Committee members and inquire about having them put on the village web site.

Correspondence:

None

Notice of Motion: (The Merrickville Wolford Recreation Advisory Committee recommends to Council that...)

Motion A: Moved by Brian McDougall and Seconded by Troy Murphy: Carried
The Merrickville Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that the Merrickville Soccer Club be given use of the smaller room upstairs in the Merrickville Community Centre as a long term storage area.

Motion B: Moved by Marcia Wilson and seconded by Brian McDougall: Carried
The Merrickville Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that council investigate repairing and upgrading the electrical shed on the Merrickville Fairgrounds to make it suitable for seasonal use as storage the Merrickville Soccer Club our provide another structure outside the Community Centre for this purpose.

Motion C: Moved by Troy Murphy and seconded by Marcia Wilson: Carried
The Merrickville Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that council request that Public Works prioritize budgeted money towards creating a walking ramp or aid children returning to the top of the toboggan hill.

In Camera not required

Next Meeting Date: April 1, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m. Merrickville – Council Chambers

Adjourned: 9:40 p.m.