

Minutes

Merrickville-Wolford Recreational Advisory Committee Council Chambers, Merrickville

Date: Wednesday September 25, 2013 7:00P.M.

Members in attendance: Brain McDougall, Dave Snowdon, Edward Yeoumans, Troy Murphy, Rhys Knott, Marcia Wilson, Anne Barr

Absentee: Kim Matte

Disclosure of Pecuniary interest: None noted.

Additions to Agenda: None noted.

Adoption of Agenda: Moved: Brain McDougall Second: Marcia Wilson

Delegations: None

Discussion proceeded with acceptance of the verbal resignations of Troy Murphy and Ed Yeoumans from the committee. It was requested that they write letters to council stating their reasons for leaving. It was with deep regret that the resignations be accepted. Troy and Ed did stay for the full meeting. *(See letters of resignation at end of minutes.)*

Old Business:

1: Recreation Questionnaire.

- Dave Snowdon has spoken with the principal of Wolford Public and Merrickville Public School and she is in agreement to circulate information home with the students in regards to the survey. The letter will include basic information about our recreational facilities with the links for completing survey.
- It is requested the survey be on the Village of Merrickville-Wolford Web-site as soon as possible.
- Suggest a poster be placed in the coffee shop where residents could make use of the free WIFI services provided to complete survey.
- Sincere appreciation is to be expressed to John Harris for his work in compiling the Recreation questionnaire.

2. Beach Buddies.

- Work has been ongoing throughout the summer to try and control weeds taking over the beach area.
- The swimming area this year is much smaller than usual and swim raft is closer than normal to shore.
- The summer of 2014 needs attention to beach area from beginning of year to try to eradicate weeds before they take over.
- A suggestion was made to encourage useage of beach by programming events in that area.

MOTION 1:

Subcommittee to be under the guidance of the Merrickville-Wolford Recreation Advisory Committee to further maintain and promote the beach area.

Moved: Troy Murphy, Second: Ed Yeoumans.

MOTION 2: Merrickville-Wolford Recreation Advisory Committee recognizes and appreciates the Beach Buddies in their hard work in maintaining the beach area.

Moved: Rhys Knott, Second: Marcia Wilson

3. Storage area for Soccer Club

- Suggested rink house to be used temporarily for summer was deemed unacceptable due to distance from soccer fields and too close to road for children helping to store equipment.
- Ball shack preferred location for summer use and 2nd floor of Merrickville Community Centre for winter storage.
- Equipment includes – balls, small netting (summer), and balls, netting, sweaters (winter).
- Council is agreeable to these locations, arrangements just need to be made with staff to access 2nd floor.

4. Status of chainlink fencing in Easton's Corners ball diamond.

- MWRAC is unaware of any completion of batting cage or any developments of Easton's Corners ball diamonds. Committee requests council to take further action.
- Second ball diamond in Easton's Corners in need of stone dust to revamp the in-field.
- Committee requests William Earl be invited to attend next meeting to set in motion plans for ball next year. He is interested in starting T-ball and/or softball.

5. Tennis Courts in Easton's Corners.

- Resurfacing of the tennis courts is taking place in Easton's Corners.
- Lights will be put on timers to avoid being on all night.
- Tennis court will be divided for tennis and basketball.

6. Status of Centennial Hall renovations.

- Upgrades are in progress.
- Plan will not accommodate 2 separate meeting rooms due to space requirements for handicap accessible washrooms.

7. Upgrades to Merrickville Rink

- Discrepancy as to what work will be done to rink.
- Council to request status report of work being done to Merrickville Rink.

8. Trails Society group ongoing.

9. Easton's Corners Playstructure

- The playstructure in Easton's Corners is well used and very appreciated. Ball players and their families can now all come and enjoy the ball games when there is a place for the children to play.

MOTION 3: To adopt Specific Goals and Activities list as presented.

Moved by Brian McDougall Second by Marcia Wilson

Merrickville-Wolford Recreation Advisory Committee

2013-2014 Specific Goals and Activities

This information is put forward in order to clarify the direction and activities of the RAC while the Needs Survey work is being completed. While the survey will provide the base for strategic planning for the Municipality, there is no need to wait for its results before engaging established recreation groups to develop budget requests or communication plans for the upcoming year.

To that end, the committee is asked to:

1. Continue to make recommendations to Council on the allocation of funds to recreation within the municipality, as per current terms of reference
2. Promote and advertise the Needs Survey, as per direction from Council in the spring of 2013
3. Engage local well-established recreation groups to solicit input to the 2014 Municipal budget, prior to the publication of results of the Needs Survey.
4. Conduct an Open House to inform the public; provide an opportunity for various recreation groups to meet one another; gather input for the 2014 budget; and create a communications plan to inform the community of all recreation opportunities that will be available in 2014

Accomplishing Points 3 and 4 could best be done by having a specific RAC member take a specific group or task and report back to the RAC each month with their progress. A list of groups and tasks follows:

- a. Merrickville Soccer Club – establish activity plans and needs for the 2014 season
- b. Trails Group – establish a regular reporting period for this sub-committee, work towards a budget and activity plans
- c. Youth Group – determine the number of students who would use after-school transportation from Kemptville and Smiths Falls Youth Centers
- d. Beach Buddies – work towards establishing a sub-committee of the RAC
- e. Baseball – contact organizers for the 2014 season, determine what may be needed from the Municipality to prepare
- f. Hockey – determine if there is a need for organization beyond what is currently available
- g. Tennis – contact players in the community and determine how to promote the new facility
- h. Volleyball – contact potential players in the community, determine how to promote the facility and explore alternate locations for the pit
- i. Open House(es) – hold community meetings in order to collect input from the public and recreation groups and to promote recreation facilities.

Please indicate which of the above tasks you are willing to take on and report back, in person and in writing, to the RAC.

Action items to be added

- Start thinking about budget items ahead of time for upcoming year.
- Web-site has a blank page for Recreation. Need pictures of the facilities to update website and promote our recreational facilities.

New Business: Council and staff to obtain list of possible volunteers to replace 3 openings on Merrickville-Wolford Recreation Advisory Committee.

Correspondence: None presented.

Next meeting Date: Not set until more committee members are appointed.

Adjournment: Moved: Troy Murphy, Second: Brian McDougall 9:35 p.m.

Letters of Resignation from Troy Murphy and Edward Yeoumans

Subject: Re:
From: "Troy Murphy" <troymurphy@sympatico.ca>
Date: Wed, October 2, 2013 4:25 pm
To: "Anne Barr" <barr@merrickville-wolford.ca>
Cc: "jill eagle" <cao@merrickville-wolford.ca>

Please accept this email as my resignation from the Merrickville-wolford recreation advisory committee.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Re: Resignation letter
From: edwardyeoumans@yahoo.co.uk
Date: Mon, September 30, 2013 7:38 pm
To: "Anne Barr" <barr@merrickville-wolford.ca>
Cc: barr@merrickville-wolford.ca
"David Snowdon" <snowdon@merrickville-wolford.ca>
"David Snowdon" <dsnowdon@gmail.com>

Please accept my resignation from the Merrickville Wolford Recreation Advisory Board as documented in the last meeting on Sept 25th. I have grown increasingly frustrated with progress and the distinct lack communication between the Recreation Board, Council and staff that I feel like the meetings are all waste of time.

This was highlighted last week with the lack of knowledge or understanding of the work being made to the ice rink.