

**Community Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2020 @ 6:30 PM**

In Attendance: Chair Councillor Jane Bustin
Councillor Rod Reeves
Councillor Mike Trinacty
Heather Morse
Carol Hiscock-White
Beth Wilson (via telephone)
CAO Mike Payne

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Jane Bustin at 6:34 PM.
2. The minutes of the 2020 Sep 24 meeting were approved as circulated.
3. The Agenda was amended to include under New Business 5 (d): Hall of Fame. The presentation by Chris Cooke will move to the beginning of the agenda.

Presentation (5. A) New Business

Chris Cooke of Town Parks-Public Works worked through his initial plans for accessible pathways at Centennial and Rainforth Parks. Pathways were initially features of the Ekistics Planning and Design work for the parks completed in 2014. Mr. Cooke's initial plans include:

- NS Accessibility Act is the overarching lens
- paths would be barrier free, could be constructed in phases over multiple years and would ultimately be paved (with 4" curbs)
- an offloading zone for the shuffleboard
- an accessible pathway around the perimeter of Centennial Park
- that pathway would provide a fairly straight line continuing from the entrance of Centennial into Rainforth Park and the splash pad.
- Install a sensory garden west of Carol's Place along the northern border of the property
- The gazebo should be at ground level and could be dropped onto a concrete pad.
- The old utility shed with washrooms need to be replaced.
- Barbed wire remains on portions of the fence around the parks
- Access to landscape design software would be helpful

The presentation was well received; the Committee recommended that the barbed wire around the park fencing be removed promptly. Some effort should be put into designing a new utility building and location so that pathways properly line up. Mr. Cooke should continue working on the draft plans and present the next iteration to the whole of the new Town Council.

4. Old Business:

a. Beautification Grant Update:

Metal tables and benches that are accessible are a good long term investment and require no to minimal maintenance. They will be secured to the ground and would eventually be bolted to concrete pads. In the interests of balancing costs with the overall demand for new tables and benches, plans have been adjusted to include six (6) wooden picnic tables and five (5) wood slat benches to go along with three (3) metal accessible tables and four (4) metal benches. Budget also includes four (4) composite trash/recycling bins and four (4) dog waste stations. Bicycle racks are an eligible expenditure of other grant opportunities and will be pursued.

b. Community Consultations Debrief

Summarized results of two virtual and one in-person consultation sessions held in September that were not well attended. There was an acknowledgment that several related committees could have provided stronger support to encourage public participation. Lessons learned include collaborative efforts around consultation planning and holding sessions within specific neighborhoods as appropriate. Ms. Brydon is exploring a comprehensive policy that would guide all Town public consultations.

c. Grants Update:

Attached report (2020 Oct 13) reviewed and was supported. CAO Payne confirmed that the initial plans for the Spicer Park Grant included a trail along the Town's easement east along the east side of Robinson Drive (behind residences), will not be proceeding. Revised plans are included in the report.

d. Community Garden Project Report:

Attached report reviewed and was well received. There was support for an improved path accessing the site from the parking lot. Perhaps local gardening experts like David Herbin and/or Johanna Quackenback could be approached to act as mentors for novice gardeners next year?

5. New Business:

a. Presentation (see above)

b. Recreation Coordinator's Revised Schedule during pandemic:

Taylor Boylan will work a new schedule at 85% (Monday to Friday, 8:00AM to 2:00PM) She will continue to be available as and when required after hours and weekends.

c. **Holiday Event Planning:**

See attached (2020 Oct 20) report; well received by the Committee. They supported an afternoon 'float by' model of a Christmas parade. Perhaps the broader community could be invited to gather at KMCC, Town Hall and other locations where adherence to COVID-19 protocols could be facilitated.

CAO Payne updated the Committee on local initiatives by Donna Conrad of Remax Realty to develop an informal local business network.

d. **Hall of Fame:**

Councillor Trinacty advised that the celebration was different this year in the context of required COVID-19 protocols. Approximately 80 people attended the event that was held at Berwick Legion on September 26. It was broadcast on Face Book Live which may be a best practice for future years. The video is posted online.

6. Next Meeting:

Thursday December 3 @ 6:30 PM

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.