

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
October 17, 2023
6:00 p.m.

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Call to Order

Present:

Councillor Lafreniere, Chair
Mayor Gervais
Deputy Mayor Abdallah
Councillor Jacyno
Councillor Kuehl
Councillor Plummer
Councillor Purcell

Also Present:

David Unrau, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk
Jordan Durocher, Director of Parks & Recreation
Angela Lochtie, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk
Heidi Martin, City Clerk
Nancy Rapin, Recording Secretary

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

4. Approval/Amendment of Meeting Agenda

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Plummer

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

That the agenda of the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting of October 17, 2023, be accepted as circulated.

Carried

5. Delegations/Presentations

a. Proposal to Institute a Climate Lens within the City of Pembroke

Mr. Durocher introduced Ann McKay, Chair of the Pembroke Beautification and Climate Action Advisory Committee who was in attendance to provide a presentation to Committee regarding a proposed Climate Lens for the City of Pembroke. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- A climate emergency was declared in April 2021
- The City's Strategic Plan identifies the use of a "Climate Lens"
- The City has taken steps to introduce climate action

- It was suggested that Council pass a resolution for the City to adopt a climate lens process
- It was suggested that the Committee Report template be amended to include a “Climate Lens” component
- Staff-time accounted for? No dedicated individual on staff – shared responsibility within all staff – the report template – not much more time will be required as staff are already doing this
- Staff will come back with a report including anticipated costs that may be incurred regarding the implementing a City-wide Climate Lens and how proposals on how this can be done
- Committee thanked Ann for her passion and dedication to Climate Action

b. 2022 Audited Financial Statements – Baker Tilly

Ms. Lochtie introduced the City’s Auditor, Mr. Rod Sinclair, CPA, CA, and Kathy Hoffman, CPA, CA, Manager from Baker Tilly REO LLP who were present to review the City’s 2022 audited financial statements. The financial statements were presented.

Motion:

Moved by Mayor Gervais

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

That the Parks & Recreation Committee accept the draft 2022 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Carried

6. New Business

a. Rotary Park Roof Tender

Mr. Durocher presented the report.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That the Parks & Recreation Committee award tender T-23-16 Roof Replacement for Rotary Park to Irvcon Limited in the amount of \$88,600.00 excluding H.S.T; and approve the surplus transfer of \$23,600.00 from the PACC compressor replacement capital budget to offset the shortfall required to complete the work, as presented.

Carried

b. Recreation Fee Update

Mr. Durocher presented the report indicating that an associated by-law would be coming before Council later in the evening.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

That the Parks & Recreation Committee approve the amended Parks and Recreation fees and charges, as presented.

Carried

c. Draft Council Remuneration and Expense Policy – Additional Information

Ms. Lochtie presented the report. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- Most municipalities do not include companion benefits in the policy
- Benefits should cover the elected only, not the companion
- Some conferences offer a companion package

- Perhaps Councillor benefit packages should be increased at budget time

Direction:

Staff was directed not to include companion benefits in the policy.

d. Ontario Regulation 284/09 2023 Budget Report

Mr. Lochtie presented the report indicating that that a resolution would be coming to Council later in the evening.

e. Pembroke On-Demand Consideration for a Transit Pilot Project

Motion

Moved by Mayor Gervais

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

To remove Items 6e and 6f from the table for discussion.

Carried

Ms. Lochtie presented the report. A discussion was held and the following points were raised:

- Some stakeholders have highlighted the need for affordable transit in Pembroke
- Transit helps people access local jobs, education, and services
- Transit can help reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and CO2
- A transit feasibility study was finalized in 2022 by Paradigm Transportation Solutions Ltd.
- Staff submitted a pre-application to the FCM Green Municipal Fund for a three-year transit pilot project to determine eligibility and the pre-application was approved. The City was invited to submit a formal application to the program, which if successful, the City could receive up to \$500,000 of grant funding, with other possible funding opportunities available
- The cost of the project will depend on number of vehicles, gas vs electric, and public ridership demand
- To date, \$300,000 of funding has been set aside for a transit initiative
- Initial survey indicated a \$25 tax increase with current forecast indicating a much higher level of tax funding will be required
- Partnerships with the City should be explored more in depth – businesses, school boards etc.
- Municipal Accommodation Tax is typically a regional tax, which was not originally supported when first introduced a few years ago but could be examined further
- Tax increase will be significant
- Ridership fees would not cover expenses
- Money could be put into taxi chits – wouldn't burden the tax payers
- Other City facilities are in need of extensive repair – need to determine priorities
- Population is significantly older than it was when the system was here last
- Stakeholders need to be approached
- Survey needs to be more in depth
- Further study could provide greater costing certainty
- Transit solution should be examined but not necessarily a transit system – chits and ride shares could be investigated
- Is a transit system affordable in the City of Pembroke?
- Some funding requires a commitment for 5 years – a long commitment
- Taxi companies could be surveyed to implement a flat rate and then be subsidised by the City
- Does OW pay per taxi chit

- What does a survey cost? Shouldn't throw good money after bad
- Perhaps motion should be postponed until there a timeline for a survey and costing
- Require more study in order to make a well-informed decision

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That the Parks & Recreation Committee table motion until report brought back to committee with anticipated timeline to prepare a detailed plan and a costing for the detailed survey.

Carried

f. Procedural By-law Amendment

Ms. Martin presented the report. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- The draft by-law contains a numerical number for missed participation which isn't necessary
- Electors trust the Elected and if they have an issue with a Member who is only participating virtually, they can deal with that individual at the next election
- Excluding a number may encourage potential candidates who cannot commit to in-person meetings due to other responsibilities, to participate in municipal Council
- Face-to-face is traditional and can be beneficial
- Workplace is changing post COVID
- If virtual attendance becomes an issue, this can be dealt with on a case by case basis

Direction

Staff was directed to remove from the draft by-law presented, the number of times a member of Council can participate electronically and prepare a by-law for Council consideration at a future meeting.

7. Adjournment

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That the October 17, 2023, meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee adjourn at 8:04 p.m.

Carried