

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
March 19, 2024
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
Heidi Martin, Clerk
Marielle McLaughlin, Manager of Operations
Heather Sutherland, Economic Development & Communications Officer
Elijah McKeown, Tourism and Digital Media Officer

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests disclosed.

4. Approval/Amendment of Meeting Agenda

The Chair indicated that agenda item 7 a. will be removed from the agenda and rescheduled to a future meeting.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

That the agenda of the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting of March 19, 2024, be amended with the removal of agenda item 7 a. as the Horticultural Society was not able to attend this evening.

Carried

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That the agenda of the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting of March 19, 2024, be approved as amended.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

- Parks & Recreation Committee – February 20, 2024

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Jacyno

That the minutes of the February 20, 2024, meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee be accepted as circulated.

Carried**6. Business Arising from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

7. Presentations/Delegations**a. County of Renfrew Update**

Mr. Unrau introduced Warden Peter Emon; Mr. Craig Kelley, CAO; and Daniel Burke, Manager of Finance; of the County of Renfrew who were in attendance to provide a presentation on the County of Renfrew – City of Pembroke Shared Services 2024 Budget.

A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- The City's Treasurer will be asked for an explanation why the City's budget regarding County Long Term Care Homes differs from the County budget presented this evening.
- There is currently a 10-year wait for housing which shows we are undersupplied with housing in our community and the County continues to lobby for additional spaces.
- Pleased to see the MESA program to support those struggling in the community.
- The \$10/day childcare has not been put in place at this time however there are more subscribers than spots demonstrating the need in the County.
- The Federal Government needs to change their policies related to the Judicial System. Treatment facilities are required to assist with mental health and addictions.
- Fine revenue from Provincial Offences Court has been declining since 2018.
- The City is currently billed twice based on two different measurements for Ontario Works. This should be added to the agenda for a future City/County Liaison Meeting.

The Chair thanked the guests from the County of Renfrew for their presentation.

8. New Business**a. Design Build Services for the Construction of the Kinsmen Pool Butler Building Retrofit**

In Mr. Durocher's absence, Ms. McLaughlin reviewed the report. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- Ms. McLaughlin indicated that based on the estimate, the project was still within budget.
- The construction project should be completed by the end of August, beginning of September.
- The Fundraising committee will be making an announcement in the near future.
- In response to a question regarding additional mechanical engineering assessments, the CAO indicated that a company has been hired however was not sure when the assessment would take place.

- Concern was expressed about going ahead with the replacement of the Butler Building if there were other significant mechanical issues or problems with the pool basin. The CAO indicated that past engineering studies indicated that there were no significant electrical or mechanical issues.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That the Parks and Recreation Committee approve the award of the Design Build Services for the Construction of the Kinsmen Pool Butler Building Retrofit, Request for Proposal No. P-24-02 to Bel-Con Design Builders LTD. in the amount of \$1,017,770.00 plus HST; and approve a contingency allowance of \$150,000, totalling \$1,167,770.00 plus applicable HST.

Carried

Ms. McLaughlin left the meeting. Ms. Sutherland and Mr. McKeown entered the meeting.

b. City of Pembroke Communications Plan

Ms. Sutherland and Mr. McKeown reviewed the information report. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- Additional resources may be required in the future to keep the communications plan moving forward.
- The plan looks ambitious and its great to see the staff buy-in.
- One area missing in the plan is the City's response to emergency events. Currently the City responds within 24-48 hours after an event and this response time should be improved.
- Events seem to be discovered or heard about after an event; how do we get in the public eye before an event?
- City digital advertising is great, but we also need to look at other advertising avenues such as weekly printed or consolidated monthly advertising, radio, etc.
- Transparency is communication and we need to provide the reasoning behind why we do what we do.
- Could a score card to track the progress of the plan's implementation be created and communicated on a quarterly basis?
- Could safety and security be added to the plan i.e. good news stories that would make people feel safer in their community perhaps highlighting community programs (Neighbourhood Community Watch, CAMSafe, etc.)

The Chair thanked Ms. Sutherland and Ms. McKeown as well as the staff who created the communications plan.

c. My Main Street Grant Application

Ms. Sutherland reviewed the report. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- This project will only proceed if the grant is successful.
- Shamrock Park is a jewel in the city and this project will cause it to become a focal point for the downtown core.
- Move forward with the eligible expenses including the electrical components and budget for the ineligible expenses such as the hard landscaping and parking meters next year.

- The parking meter replacement could be phased in over time.
- Worry about dipping into the general reserve.
- Concern was raised with the number of components begin planned in the small parkette.
- Bike racks and repair stations will require security cameras to offer secure bike parking.
- This application shows great communication between the PBIA and City staff.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That the Parks and Recreation Committee approve the proposed Shamrock Park Improvement project concept; and approve the City fronting the reimbursable costs on behalf of the Pembroke Business Improvement Area through the general capital reserves; and if there are insufficient funds in the Moffat Street reconstruction project to cover the ineligible projects costs, that these costs excluding the parking meters, be covered through the general capital reserves.

Carried

9. Adjournment

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Plummer

That the March 19, 2024, meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Carried