



BOARD OF PARK MANAGEMENT

A meeting of the Board of Park Management was held on **Monday, December 4, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.** in the **Community Hall Lobby Meeting Room** at the Rotary Complex.

PRESENT: Chairman Dave Hanly, Maureen Cocksedge, Sheri Maguire, Councilor Beatty, Councilor Henderson.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Vice Chair Kimberley Richardson, Carolyn Cuerden.

STAFF PRESENT: Quin Malott - Manager Parks, Forestry & Cemetery.

MINUTES

2786. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

None declared.

2787. PRESENTATION: CRICKET PITCH:

Objective: Emilio Viera proposal regarding future of cricket in Stratford.

Background & Analysis: Mr. Viera through staff request to present to Board of Park Management.

Staff Recommendation: For the Board's consideration.

Background and Analysis: Mr. Viera reviewed the proposal involving installation of a permanent cricket pitch at the south-easterly end of Lower Queens Park in the area where a temporary pitch has been located in previous years. The intention is to name the permanent cricket pitch in honour of actor Butch Blake who was passionate about the game. The annual matches between Festival and Shaw Theatres have been played on temporary burlap mats.

Financial Impact: Estimated cost for the proposed cricket pitch measuring 3 metres wide by 30 metres long constructed with an approximately 6-inch-deep granular base/cushion to be installed in 2024 would be \$15,000.00 to be paid for through private funding. Included in the proposal is provision of a small storage shed/facility to house cricket equipment and a tarp used to cover the pitch under inclement/winter weather conditions.

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Discussion regarding programming and scheduling of the facility, type of storage shed/facility and the need for it to withstand/deter vandalism; insurance issues; and garnering interest with children/youth regarding the sport of cricket. Q. Malott indicated that the process used for booking other sport fields such as baseball diamonds and soccer fields would be used. The city will be encouraging casual and practice cricket be played at Battershall Park. Mr. Viera advised that formation of a cricket association is planned.

Resolution: That the Parks Board approve the installation of a permanent cricket pitch in the south-east corner of Lower Queens Park with specific location details acceptable to Park Division staff; that further details concerning the proposed storage shed/facility be brought back to the Parks Board for review and approval; and that the project costs be fully funded by the project proponent(s) with no cost to the City.

Mover: Councilor Beatty Second: S Maguire Carried

2788. MINUTES:

Objective: The minutes from the November 6, 2023 meeting provided for approval.

Resolution: That the minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting and the November 6, 2023, meeting be approved.

Mover: Councilor Beatty Second: M. Cocksedge Carried.

2789. MEDICINE WHEEL GARDEN & CEREMONIAL FIRE PROPOSAL UPDATE:

Objective: Mr. Bonnell provided written update regarding progress.

Background and Analysis:

Mr. Bonnell met with one of the Indigenous supporting groups Two Row in Stratford. They were enthusiastic and suggested he connect with Lucas Tingle. On November 10, 2023 he met with Lucas Tingle who is the Garden Educator for The Local Community Food Centre to get a sense of how to navigate this project.

Mr. Tingle's suggestions for consideration were:

- Due to the high tree cover in Meadowrue location, it might not be the best as some of the Indigenous plants require a lot of sunlight.

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- Due to the adjacent tree which requires a lot of water, the plants in that location might not get the water they need.

Mr. Tingle suggested that we first work towards putting out a call to see if there are Local Indigenous Elders and youth that might be interested in joining a steering committee who can help lead the project. Additionally, he suggested looking for an indigenous garden consultant to help lead the project or support the committee.

Next Steps:

1. Mr. Bonnell to work with Mike Bietz, Corporate Communications Specialist and Tatianna Dafoe, City Clerk in putting out a call to the public to see if there are Indigenous Elders/Knowledge Keepers for January. Once there is a committee of interested participants, a timeline and budget [approximate costing up to \$10,000.00] can be established.
2. Should there be no applicants, Mr. Bonnell can facilitate.

No further action required at this time.

2790. OTHER BUSINESS:

Swan Herd: remaining two swans brought into winter quarters. There are a total of 8 swans.

Tennis Dome: update provided by staff. Awaiting for Planning Division approval believed to be fire suppression planning.

The Board reiterated its desire to review the RFP/agreement terms for the ice cream booth in Upper Queens Park and asked Q. Malott if the Director of Community Services could attend the January 8, 2024 meeting to update the Board on the matter.

Next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is Monday, January 8, 2024 3:30pm in the **Community Hall Lobby Meeting Room.**

Motion to adjourn S. Maguire, seconded by Councilor Henderson to adjourn at 4:19pm