



## The Corporation of the City of Stratford Community Services Sub-committee MINUTES

Date: June 15, 2017

Time: 4:45 P.M.

Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Beatty - Chair Presiding, Councillor Bunting - Vice Chair, Councillor Ingram, \*Councillor Mark, Councillor Ritsma

Staff Present: David St. Louis - Director of Community Services, Jim Bryson - Community Facilities Manager, Quin Malott - Parks and Forestry Manager, Brad Hernden - Manager of Recreation and Marketing, Michael Mousley - Manager of Transit, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary

Also present: Peter Zein, Roger Koert, Julia Opie (Item 3.1), Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Media

### 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

### 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

None stated at the Sub-committee meeting.

**3. Delegations**

**3.1 Stratford Rotary Complex Property – Universal Design Pathways (COM17-011)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT a parking consultant be engaged to undertake a peer review of the Accessibility Advisory Committee report titled "Stratford Rotary Complex Property Universal Design Pathways" at a cost of \$1000 plus HST;

AND THAT the funds to pay for this review come from the Accessibility Advisory Committee budget.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** Peter Zein, on behalf of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, was at the meeting to present ideas the AAC has on accessibility improvements for the Rotary Complex/Stratford Ag parking lots.

He referred to photos of the parking lot at the Rotary Complex, showing the entrance, the side of the building and the rear of the building and noted that it is currently dangerous for pedestrians, those using wheelchairs and families with young children or strollers. Vehicles race in and out of the lot very quickly and there are no clear, safe pathways around the property.

\*Councillor Mark arrived at 4:49 p.m.

He suggested some potential universal design solutions and locations for safe pathways, specifically a multi-use pathway around the perimeter of the property. He also raised concern with the funds for a peer review coming out of the AAC's budget, noting that they spend many free volunteer hours working to make the City more accessible, not just for those in wheelchairs but for everybody. Discussion took place regarding whether the funds should come from the AAC's budget, the Community Services budget or the contingency portion of the grant program funds.

Discussion took place regarding whether a parking consultant is required, when this is a safety issue, not a parking issue. The Director stated that they came up with the multi-use path, for safe pathways, but also to circle the complex as a fitness trail.

Discussion took place regarding traffic, suggesting that a one-way traffic flow exiting at the back and the possibility of locating an entrance at the very east side of the parking lot to negate people speeding down that side and then crossing over to the existing exit could be considered. Concern was raised with putting traffic to the back of the building as it is a loading zone for the buildings and events and

The Director of Community Services stated that Mr. Zein has done a wonderful job and he believes that the City should do a peer review, which is fairly low cost, as well as refer to the 2018 budget to look at the whole parking lot in terms of how traffic and people are moved, how buses and tradeshow are serviced and using the back lot.

The Chair thanked Mr. Zein, Mr. Koert and the AAC for the time and effort they put into drafting the report and presentation.

Motion by Councillor Ritsma

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT a consultant be engaged to undertake a peer review of the Accessibility Advisory Committee report titled "Stratford Rotary Complex Property Universal Design Pathways" at a cost of \$1000 plus HST;**

**AND THAT the funds to pay for this review come from the contingency fund for the Community Grants;**

**AND THAT a formal review of traffic flow and parking at the Rotary Complex be referred to the 2018 budget process.**

**Carried**

#### 4. Report of the Board of Park Management

##### 4.1 North Shore Suspended Walkway (COM17-009)

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT staff be directed to include a suspended walkway as an option in ongoing design and reclamation work for future consideration of a new North Shore walkway by Council.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Director of Community Services advised that this report came from the Parks Board with regard to design of a pathway on the North Shore. The Parks Board is in agreement to further investigate a floating boardwalk between William Hutt Bridge and the Thomas Orr Dam.

In response to what the other options are, the Director stated that the EA has indicated that their first choice would be to use an engineered stone to reclaim land and build a proper pathway. With respect to where the boardwalk would be stored, the Director advised that it would be on stilts and not removable. A company looked at the river when the tides were low and they did not foresee any issues but there will be maintenance issues.

It was suggested by a Council member that another option is to do nothing and use that money for something else. People have gotten in the habit of not walking there since it has been closed. It was also suggested that staff not spend a lot of time and effort on the issue, as there a lot of other things that need to be done, although it would be nice to have a walkway on that side of the river. It was noted that some residents of Stratford feel very strongly about the tradition of walking around the river, including the North Shore portion and it would be unfortunate not to use the parks system to its full extent.

Motion by Councillor Mark

**Sub-committee Recommendation:** THAT staff be directed to include a suspended walkway as an option in ongoing design and reclamation work for future consideration of a new North Shore walkway by Council.

**Carried**

## 5. Report of the Manager of Community Facilities

### 5.1 Addition of Hand Rails in Allman Arena (COM17-006)

**Staff Recommendation:** That the retaining of an outside engineering consultant to provide a structural assessment of the Allman Arena be referred to the 2018 Budget deliberations.

**Sub-committee Discussion:**

Motion by Councillor Ritsma

That the retaining of an outside engineering consultant to provide a structural assessment of the Allman Arena be referred to the 2018 Budget deliberations.

In response to what other options there are without having to engage an engineering consultant, such as having reserved first row seating for those with mobility issues, the Director advised that the only user that has assigned seating is the Junior B hockey club but that option is available any time the area is open. An option could be to discuss with the Junior B hockey club how they assign seating.

Discussion took place around adding signage restricting the first and top rows for those with difficulties getting up and down the stairs.

Concern was raised with spending money on a study and then needing to spend a substantial amount of money to bring the whole seating area up to code when they start to do the work.

Councillor Ritsma withdrew his motion.

**Sub-committee Decision: Staff to contact the Junior B hockey club with respect to how they assign seating and to investigate signage and report back to Sub-committee.**

### 5.2 Site Evaluation for the Relocation of Water Street Tennis Courts (COM17-012)

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT the area currently occupied by Shakespeare Park tennis court be replaced with a pickle ball/tennis complex.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Community Facilities Manager stated that a number of sites were investigated and he reviewed the criteria that staff looked at.

In response to questions, the Manager advised that four pickleball courts and one tennis courts will fit within the existing footprint of the two tennis courts that are there and a shade structure and washrooms as requested by the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults Association will be considered in the next phase after the All-Wheels Park is also completed. It was noted by the Director that washroom facilities will be challenging.

In response to questions regarding combined courts and barriers between the tennis and pickleball courts, the Director stated that they are looking at dedicated courts because the court size is different and barriers are not in the current design but could be added.

Discussion took place regarding which group of pickleball players was consulted and whether they represent the majority. The Manager of Recreation and Marketing clarified that the design was taken to the SLAAA Board of Directors who represent the majority of people playing pickleball in Stratford. It was noted that this is a tennis and pickleball facility and it needs to take into account the needs of all users.

Mr. Wayne Sangster stated that he was concerned with Shakespeare Park as the location due to the wind and the lack of washroom facilities. They currently play on Milton Street and a local business allows them to use their washroom. He suggested that there was a possibility of holding large tournaments, which could bring in revenue for the City. He requested that the pickleball facility be located at the Packham Road complex, as there is lots of parking and washrooms.

It was suggested that a dedicated facility is preferred by pickleball players and further investigation is required by staff, with consultation with pickleball players.

Ray Dietrich suggested that wind protection can be put up for very little money and that most of the 200 pickleball players in town are seniors and they play for fun. He feels they should focus on the ones who want to play for fun.

It was stated by a Sub-committee member that Shakespeare Park is becoming a destination park and the tennis courts will need to be refurbished. It is timely to do it at the same time as the new All Wheels Park.

Further discussion took place regarding air flow with barriers, how many courts would be required for tournaments, how many there would be in the vicinity of Shakespeare Park, trends and potential safety concerns with the proximity of train tracks. It was noted that the All Wheels Park design was looked at by the police and they did not have concerns.

In response to whether staff could consider a wind barrier and if tournaments had been considered, staff advised a wind barrier could be looked at as it is fairly low cost and tournaments haven't been discussed to date as pickleball is fairly new to Stratford but if the numbers were there, they could consider it.

It was suggested that if the transit hub is located on Downie Street, washrooms could service both the transit riders and park users.

Motion by Councillor Ritsma

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the area currently occupied by Shakespeare Park tennis court be replaced with a pickle ball/tennis complex.**

**Carried**

## **6. Report of the Manager of Recreation and Marketing**

### **6.1 Renewal of Agreement for the Burnside Agriplex (COM17-007)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT the City of Stratford enter into a 1-year renewal agreement starting June 13, 2017 and ending June 12, 2018 with the Stratford and District Agricultural Society to occupy and operate the Burnside Agriplex, under the same terms and conditions of the existing agreement.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** In response to who maintains the washrooms, the Director of Community Services advised that the Agricultural Society does.

Motion by Councillor Bunting

**Sub-committee Recommendation:** THAT the City of Stratford enter into a 1-year renewal agreement starting June 13, 2017 and ending June 12, 2018 with the Stratford and District Agricultural Society to occupy and operate the Burnside Agriplex, under the same terms and conditions of the existing agreement.

Carried

## 6.2 Bicycle Parking Implementation Plan (COM17-010)

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT the Bicycle Parking Implementation Plan be received and that the funding required to implement the downtown core Bicycle Parking Plan be referred to the 2018 budget process.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** Concern was raised that the BIA is actually not in agreement with selling the existing bike racks, they have not been consulted on location of post and ring racks or the way-finding signage. They are working on wayfinding signage for vehicles and it was to be consolidated with bicycle wayfinding signs. The report states that the BIA would consider allowing the City to sell the existing racks as a cost recovery measure for new ones, however, since they purchased them, it was intended that any revenue to directed back to them.

The Manager of Recreation and Marketing advised that he consulted with a staff member of City Centre about the bike racks, not the Board. Discussion took place regarding who was consulted and what the thoughts were. Staff were advised that the BIA was not in agreement.

It was requested that there be a lot more coordination between Heritage Stratford, the BIA and staff. It was noted that staff consulted with ATAC and City Centre.

The Manager suggested that steps 1-4 of the implementation could be undertaken and 5-8 would be done in the next phase.



Discussion took place regarding how many bikes the current racks hold, the benefits of the post and ring units and units available from CR Plastics. Staff advised that they looked into the units from CR Plastics but they take up a lot of space like the current units. Public Works staff went to each current bike rack location and provided input if there were any issues regarding snow removal, clearance for vehicles and others. They have also agreed to install the post and ring units as part of their operating budget.

With respect to purchasing the units, it was suggested that staff contact local schools and/or TTC organizations who could fabricate them.

Motion by Councillor Ritsma

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Bicycle Parking Implementation Plan be received for information purposes and that the funding required to implement the downtown core Bicycle Parking Plan be referred to the 2018 budget process.**

**Carried**

## **7. Report of the Manager of Transit**

### **7.1 Refurbished Bus Purchase (COM17-008)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT an exemption from the Purchase Policy be granted and staff be authorized to purchase a reconditioned 1997 Nova LFS Transit bus at a cost of \$35,500 plus HST from MTB Transit Solutions.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Manager of Transit advised that the fleet is aging to the point where they are beyond repair or it is financially irresponsible to repair them. They should have 15 buses, and are currently at 12. He can purchase a refurbished bus for the same amount as repairs would cost for the most recent bus that requires them.

He has ordered two new buses out of this year's capital budget but due to Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) grants that the Federal government gave, everyone in the country ordered buses and as a result, the new buses will not arrive until late 2018.

Transit buses have many scheduled services that need completed and combined with buses breaking down, service can be jeopardized.

Discussion took place regarding whether NOVA buses have any known maintenance issues. The Manager noted that the problems they have are with the engines and the green part of the exhaust, but that applies to all brands of bus.

With respect to the sale of day bus passes and family passes being available everywhere, the Director advised that staff are going to promote the sale of family and day passes at locations other than City Hall. It was confirmed that the bus drivers do not carry passes for purchase.

Motion by Councillor Mark

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT an exemption from the Purchase Policy be granted and staff be authorized to purchase a reconditioned 1997 Nova LFS Transit bus at a cost of \$35,500 plus HST from MTB Transit Solutions.**

**Carried**

#### **8. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes**

The following Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes were provided for the information of Committee:

Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee minutes of January 5, February 2 and March 2, 2017.

Board of Park Management Minutes of January 9 and February 13, 2017

#### **9. Next Sub-committee Meeting**

The next Community Services Sub-committee meeting is July 13, 2017 at 4:45 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Councillor Ingram

**Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Community Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.**

**Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 4:45 p.m.

Meeting End Time: 6:01 p.m.