



AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE RECREATION BOARD OF THE TOWN OF TABER, TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ON March 1, 2018, AT 5:30 PM.

	<u>MOTION</u>
<u>ITEM NO. 1. CALL TO ORDER</u>	
<u>ITEM NO. 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</u>	X
<u>ITEM NO. 3. DELEGATIONS</u>	
A) RFD – Baseball/Softball Enhancement Society	X
<u>ITEM NO. 4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES</u>	
A) RFD – March 1, 2018	X
<u>ITEM NO. 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u>	
A) RFD – Recreation Master Plan	X
<u>ITEM NO. 6. ACTION ITEMS</u>	
A) RFD - Information for the Recreation Board	X
B) RFD – Recreation Report	X
C) RFD - Recognition Awards - None	
<u>ITEM NO. 7. MEDIA INQUIRIES</u>	
<u>ITEM NO. 8. CLOSED SESSION</u> - None	
<u>ITEM NO. 9. OPEN SESSION</u>	X
<u>ITEM NO. 10. CLOSE OF MEETING</u>	X

Recreation Board Request for Decision

Meeting Date: March 1, 2018

Subject: Delegation - Baseball - Softball Enhancement Society

Recommendation:

That the Recreation Board accepts the presentation from the Baseball Softball Enhancement Society as presented.

Background:

In 2016 there were discussions regarding forming a community group of volunteers to finish the Ken McDonald Sports Complex. The project did not advance at that time.

Over the last few months, a group of individuals in the community have come together with the purpose of enhancing the baseball and softball facilities in Taber. The group is in the process of applying for society status.

There has been discussion amongst the group as to potential future plans for the baseball and softball fields in Taber. Administration has been in attendance at the meetings and are working collaboratively with the group.

On behalf of the group, Rick Popadynetz and Nathan Cummins will attend and make a presentation to the Recreation Board. They are hoping to get the support of the Recreation Board on their proposal and plan to then approach Council with a request for approval of the plan including the allocation of property.

Currently, there is \$250,000.00 approved in the 2019 Capital Budget for the development of a fourth ball diamond at Ken McDonald memorial Sports Complex.

Legislation / Authority:

Recreation Board Bylaw 2-2009, Section 6 (Purpose of the Board)

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Family/Community:

Create and promote all-season recreational opportunities and facilities that are regionally recognized.

Financial Implication:

Currently, there is \$250,000.00 approved in the 2019 Capital Budget for the development of a fourth ball diamond at Ken McDonald memorial Sports Complex. The development of such an organization could assist with grant funding and donations towards development.

Service Level / Staff Resource Implication:	None at this time.
Justification:	The completion of KMMSC has been discussed many times in recent years. The complex is 18 years old and has never been finished.
Alternative(s):	The Recreation Board could in principle, support the proposal of baseball and softball diamond enhancement in Taber. The Recreation Board could choose to ask for additional information.

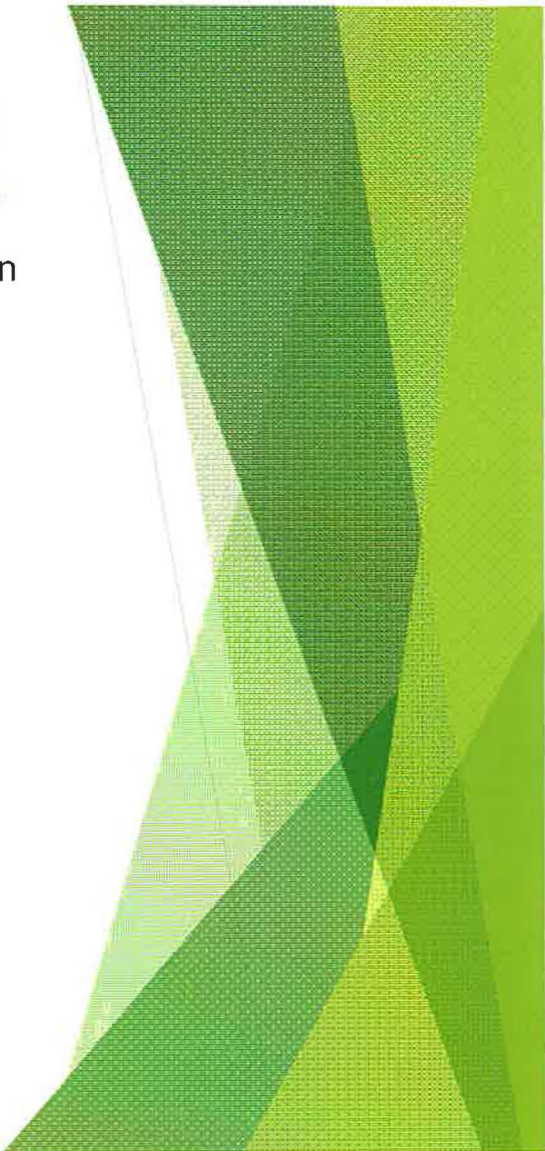
Attachment(s):	Baseball Softball Presentation
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APPROVALS:	
Originated By:	Aline Holmen
Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or Designate:	



Taber Softball/Baseball

Breakdown By Organization

- Mennonite Softball League
 - Taber Mixed Slow-Pitch League
 - High School Baseball
 - Taber Minor Baseball
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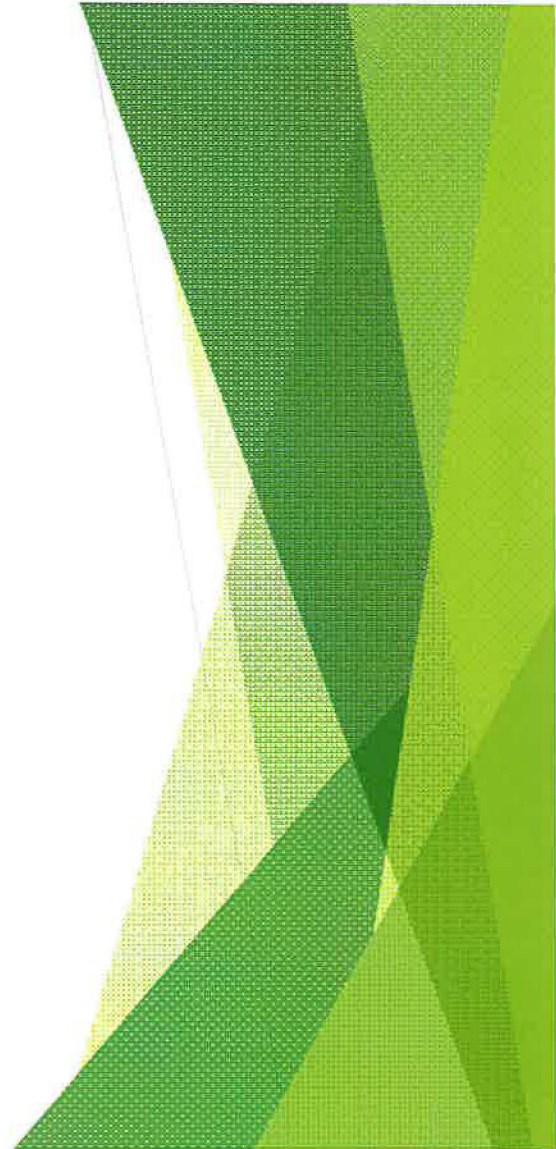
Mennonite Softball League (2017)

- ▶ 28 teams, comprised of 12 players/team
- ▶ 16 game schedule, practice once a week
- ▶ Ages 14 and up
- ▶ 10 teams in the Taber area alone
- ▶ Would like to hold more tournaments here, but need four diamonds to do so



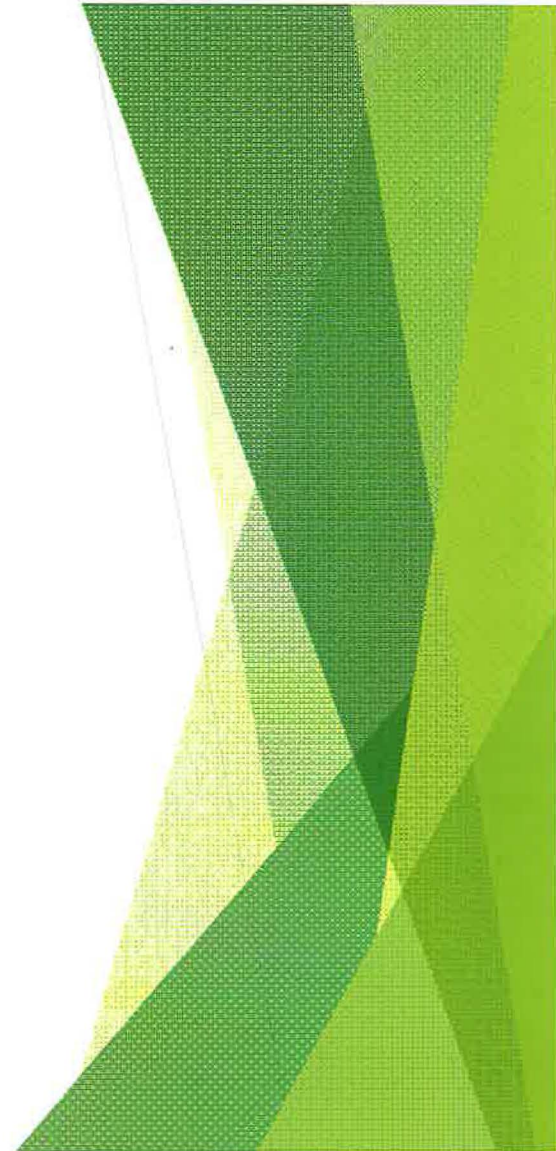
Taber Mixed Slow-Pitch League (2017)

- ▶ 14 teams, comprised of between 15-20 players/team
- ▶ Games are played on Thursday and Friday nights, using 5 diamonds Friday night and 2 diamonds Thursday.
- ▶ Teams book makeup games and practices based on diamond availability all other nights of the week.
- ▶ Each year new teams are being added to the league



High School Baseball (2017)

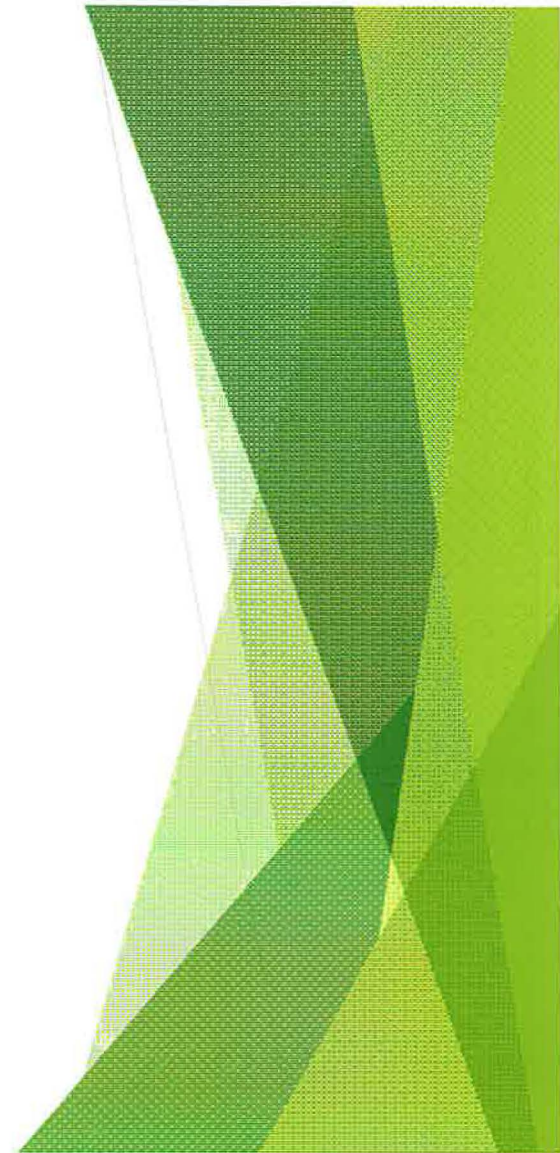
- ▶ Grades 9-12, one team last year
- ▶ Practice 2 times a week
- ▶ 1-2 games a week



Taber Minor Ball (2017)

- ▶ Machine Pitch age division 26 kids (7-8 yrs old)
- ▶ Minor age division 25 kids (9-10 yrs old)
- ▶ Major age division 10 kids (11-12 yrs old)
- ▶ Intermediate age division 4 kids (13 yrs old)
- ▶ Junior age division 4 kids (14 yrs old)
- ▶ Senior age division 2 kids (15 yrs old and up)

- ▶ Up and coming Tee-Ball 28 kids (5-6 yrs old)
- ▶ Currently using the 4 school diamonds, Ken MacDonald and Confederation.

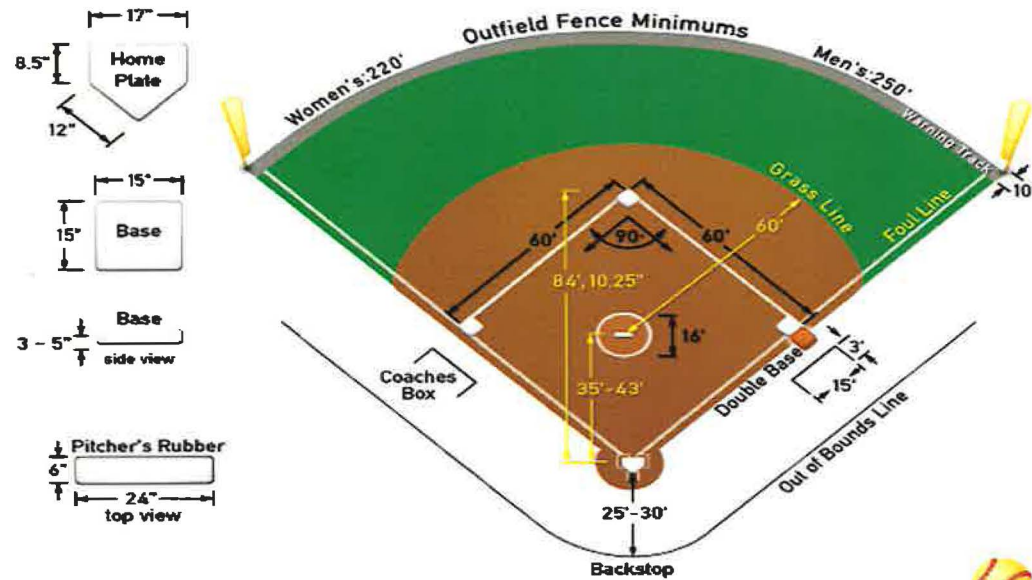


Standard Softball Diamond

Softball

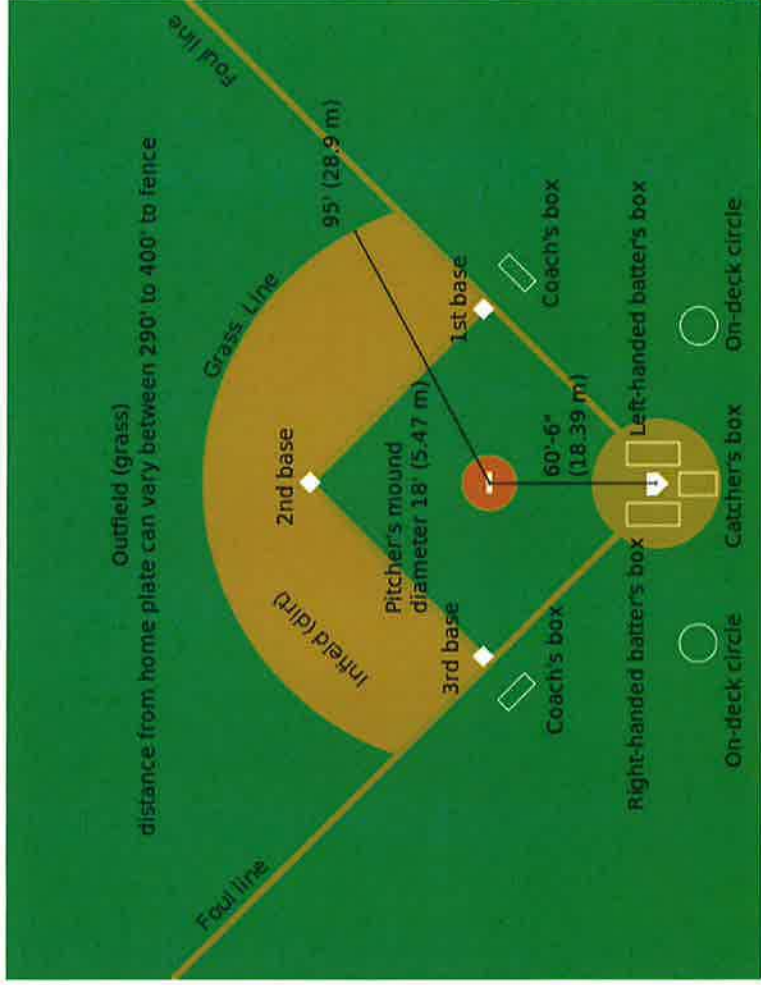
2 at Ken Mac

2 at Confederation



Standard High School Baseball Diamond

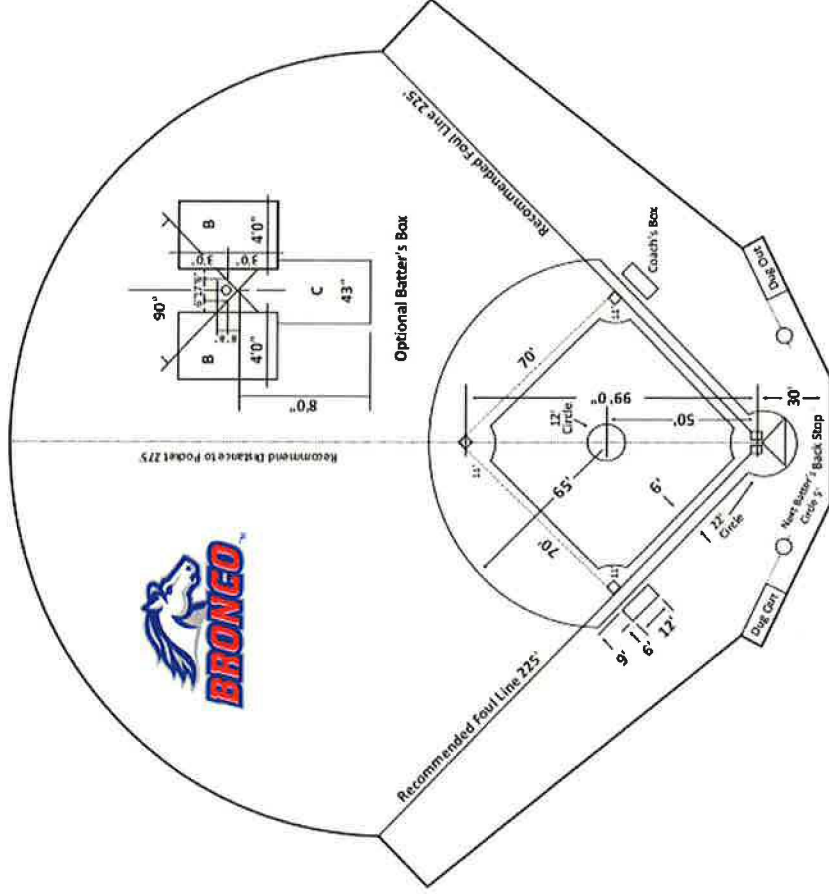
1 at Ken Mac



90 foot base path

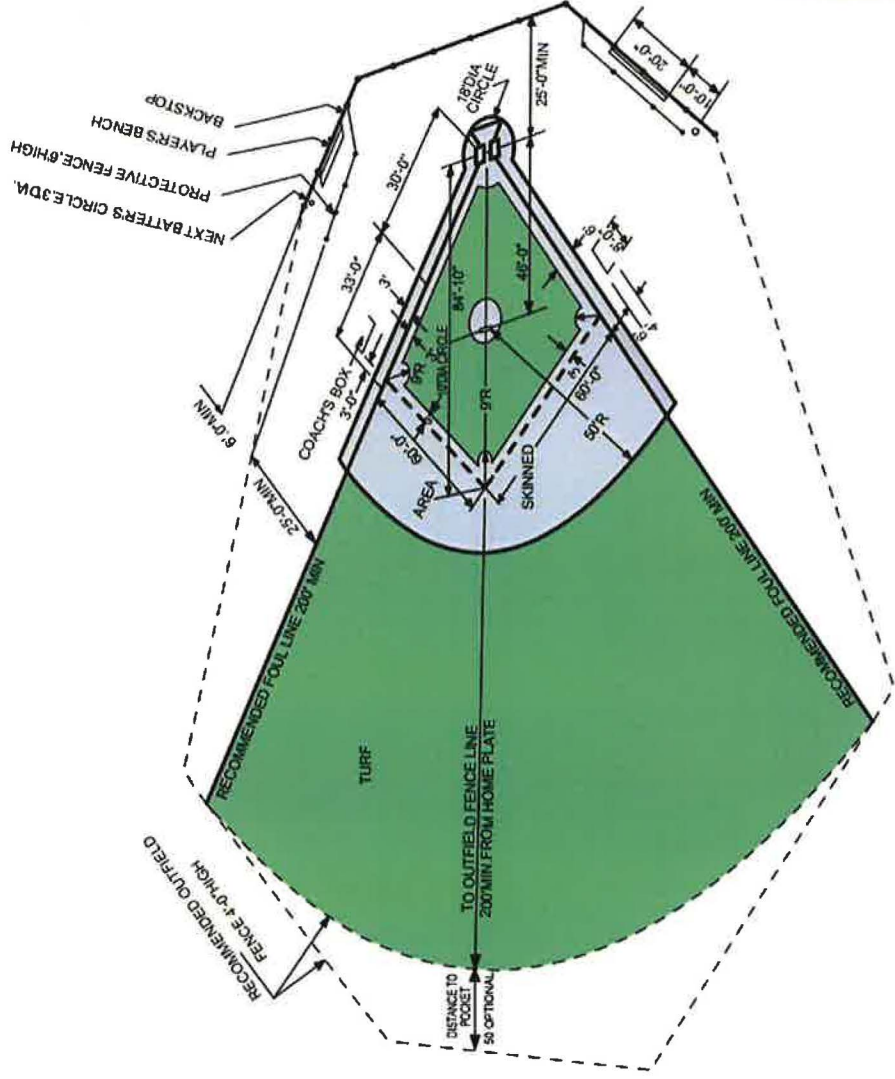
Standard Intermediate Diamond

Currently no
Diamond in Taber



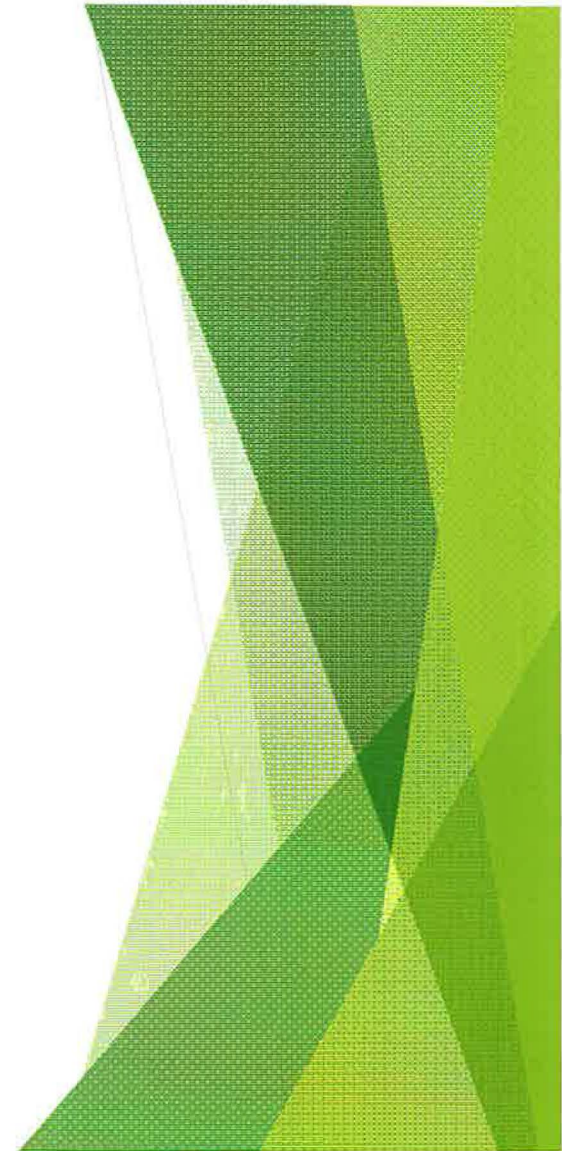
Standard Little League Minor/Major Diamond

Currently no Diamond in Taber



Softball/Slow-Pitch Proposal Phase 1

- ▶ Finish the 4th diamond at Ken MacDonald
- ▶ Convert the High School Diamond to Softball
- ▶ Build a concession stand and washroom facilities
- ▶ Put some time and maintenance into the Lon Ferguson Diamond
- ▶ Allows ample room for our growing softball community
- ▶ Allows our softball community to host more tournaments



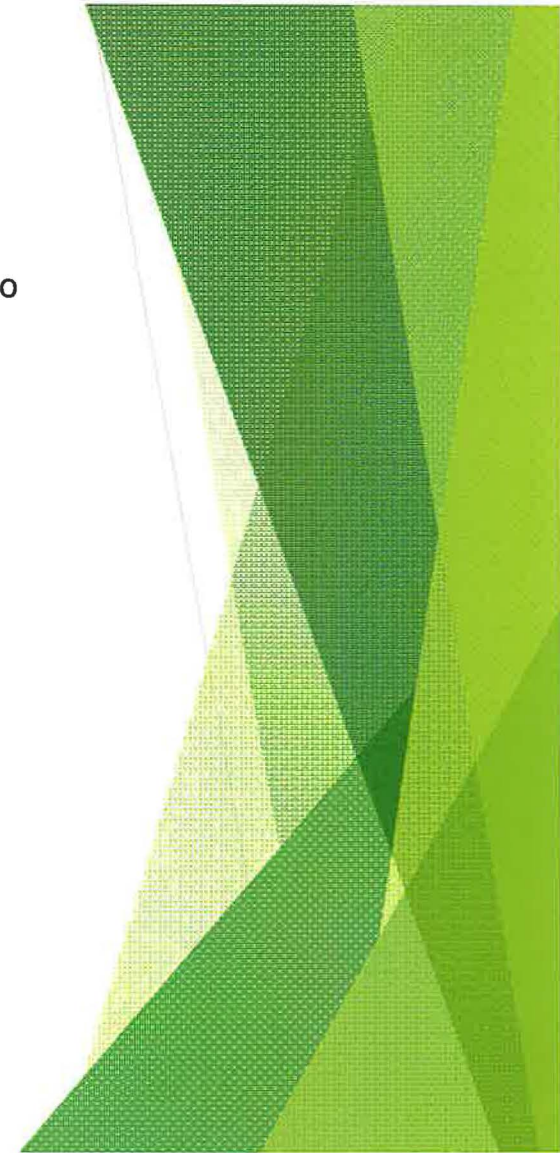
High School Age Proposal- Phase 2

- ▶ Build a new facility to replace the old one at Ken Mac.



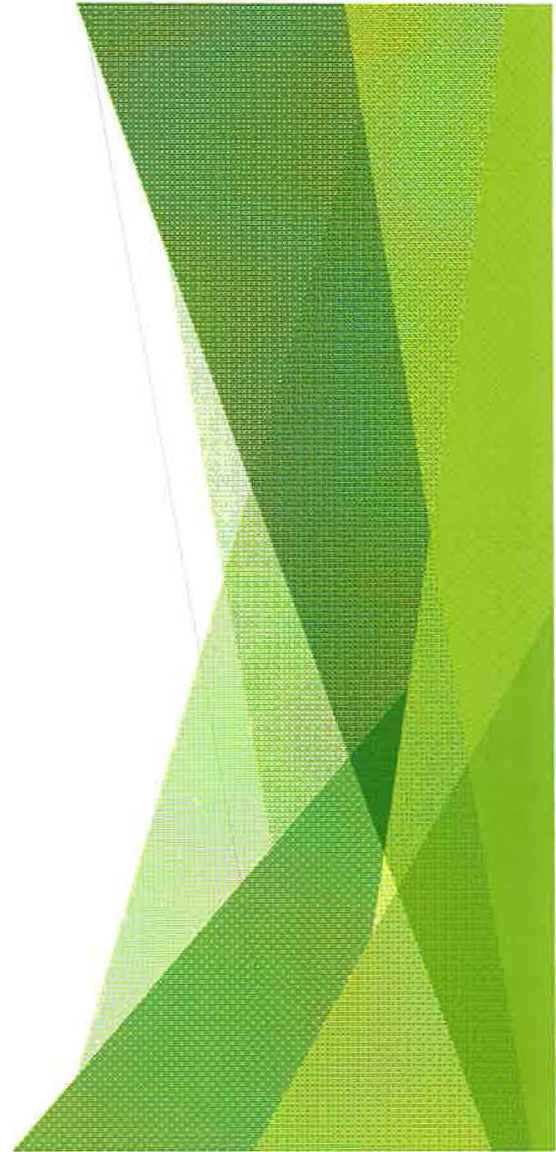
Intermediate Age Proposal

- ▶ Build a diamond that is the correct size for this age group
- ▶ Preferable close to the high school age diamond. This will allow shared access to concessions, washrooms, batting cages, and parking.



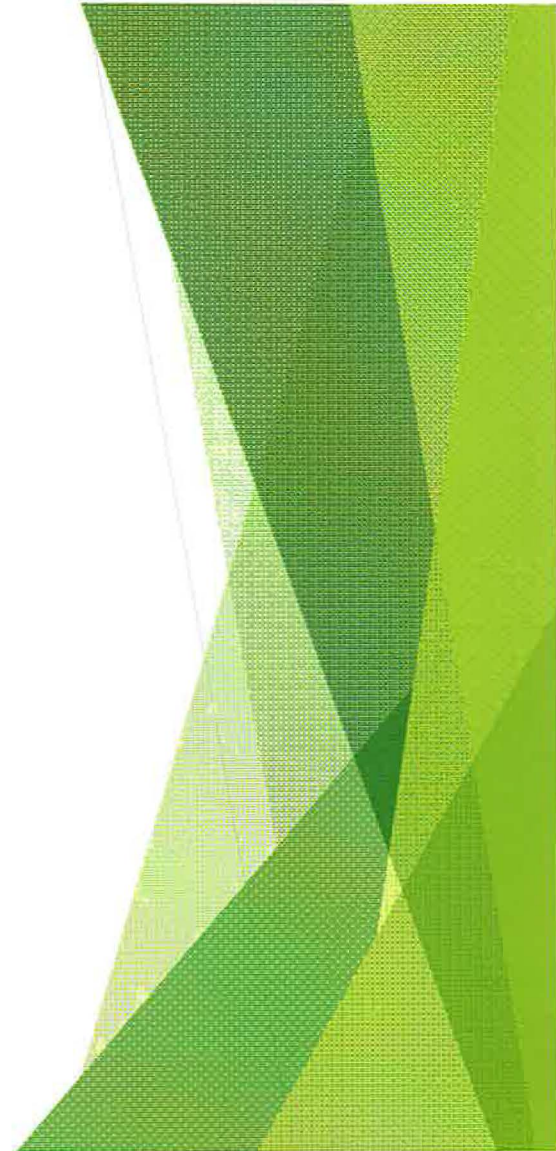
Potential Baseball Diamond Locations

- ▶ Trout Pond Area/ Old Rodeo Grounds
- ▶ West of Legion Park
- ▶ East of Ken MacDonald
- ▶ North of Ken MacDonald



Little League Proposal -Phase 3

- ▶ Convert the Confederation Park diamonds to Minor/Major sized parks
- ▶ Allows us to share facilities with the Spray Park and the Skate Park
- ▶ Allows us to host summer Tournaments and potentially a Corn Fest Tournament
- ▶ Great place for kids to play
- ▶ Improves safety for players and people using the Spray Park and Skatepark



Recreation Board Request for Decision

Meeting Date: 01/03/2018

Subject: Recreation Board Minutes

Recommendation:

That the Recreation Board adopts the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Recreation Board held on February 1, 2018, as presented

Background:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Recreation Board held on February 1, 2018

Legislation / Authority:

MGA, Section 208(1)(a)(c)

Strategic Plan Alignment:

N/A

Financial Implication:

N/A

**Service Level / Staff
Resource Implication:**

N/A

Justification:

Approval of minutes is in accordance with the Municipal Government Act Section 208

Alternative:

That the Recreation Board adopts the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Recreation Board held on February 1, 2018 as amended

Attachment(s):

Minutes



APPROVALS:

Originated By:

Aline Holmen

**Chief Administrative Officer
(CAO) or Designate:**

1/2018

MINUTES OF THE TABER RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON February 1, 2018 AT
5:30 PM.

PRESENT: Danielle Hansen, Chairperson
Darcy Firth, Vice Chairperson
Councillor Garth Bekkering
Councillor Louis Tams
Councillor Tamara Miyanaga
Rene Angermeier

ABSENT: Joel Mills

ALSO PRESENT:

Aline Holmen, Director of Recreation
Trent Smith, Recreation Manager
Marty Planger, Recording Secretary
Taber Times

CALL TO ORDER

A. Holmen called the Regular Meeting of the Taber Recreation Board to order at 5:30 PM.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for Chair

A. Holmen called for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair of the Taber Recreation Board.

D. Firth nominated Danielle Hansen for the position of Chair of the Taber Recreation Board.

A. Holmen called for further nominations, a second, and a third and final time.

Being as there were no further nominations, Danielle Hansen was declared elected Chair of the Taber Recreation Board.

Nominations for Vice Chair

A. Holmen called for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chair of the Taber Recreation Board.

R. Angermeier nominated Darcy Firth for the position of Vice Chair of the Taber Recreation Board.

A. Holmen called for further nominations, a second, and a third and final time.

Being as there were no further nominations, Darcy Firth was declared elected Vice Chair of the Taber Recreation Board.

A. Holmen turned the meeting over to Chairperson D. Hansen @ 5:32 PM.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

RES. 01/2018 MOVED by Councillor L. Tams to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS - None

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

A) Regular meeting – December 7, 2017

RES. 02/2018 MOVED by R. Angermeier that the Recreation Board adopts the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Recreation Board held on December 7, 2018, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A) Small Ice Arena

The members of the board briefly reviewed the options put forward from MPE Engineering. The board expressed the need to recommend that Council move forward and be proactive and not wait. The members understood that if council approved the renovation, construction would probably start in 2019. It would be ideal to have a solution in place prior to

the ice failing, which could also affect the large ice as well as the curling club seasons.

It was discussed that most of the user groups supported the renovation of the existing small ice, as they felt that the small ice is an asset to their current programming. The board concluded that they could get behind support of option 1 of the MPE report at this time, and that the other options seemed too costly at this time.

RES. 03/2018 MOVED by Councillor L. Tams that the Recreation Board direct the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to attend a Council meeting on behalf of the Recreation Board, to request consideration for renovation of the small ice arena facility as per Option #1 in the MPE Investigative Report

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION ITEMS

A) 2018 Recreation Capital Items

A. Holmen reviewed the recreation capital projects which have been approved for 2018/19. She did explain that some of the projects were approved dependent on grant funding approval. Town facilities are in fairly good condition, but it was explained that they are aging and in need of upgrades. Council has committed in recent years to the renovation of the Aquafun Centre and Arena and now the auditorium.

RES. 04/2018 MOVED by Councillor G. Bekkering that Recreation Board accepts the information regarding 2018/19 Recreation Projects as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B) Future of Recreation

This item was brought to the board, because Chairperson D. Hansen felt that a key function of this board is to look to the future as to where sport is going in this community. The current Recreation Master Plan doesn't aid this board in decision making for the future as next steps regarding timelines and costs is required. Many expressed they envision a completed plan to include priorities that also has completion dates to aid in planning. This is vital for this board to make any decisions as well as encouraging future growth within the town.

A. Holmen reported that a current trend is that municipalities are moving back to offering programming as opposed to have other users facilitate. A recent move is electronic programming that reduces the overhead of an instructor to teach a class. As a town, we need to ensure our facilities can keep up with the trends and meet the demands of the future.

It was noted that the current version of the Recreation Master Plan was completed in house and is a great start, however, to complete it will require time and expertise that the town staff does not have. The Board would like to see what it would take to complete the process because they definitely see the value of a completed live document.

RES. 05/2018 MOVED by Councillor G. Bekkering that the Recreation Board ask administration to provide further information on trends in Recreation and the possible cost of completion of the Masterplan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RES. 06/2018 MOVED by R. Angermeier that the Recreation Board request administration to bring back information from the 1985 Masterplan and a summary of what was completed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C) Information for the Recreation Board

The Recreation Board reviewed the information presented. A. Holmen highlighted a few items:

- Phase I of the Trout Pond Project is on schedule to be completed by April 30th. The area is still a construction zone therefore remains closed and is not having snow removal service.
- Southern Alberta Summer Games planning is well under way and moving along nicely. Still seeking a few sport chairpersons and committee chairpersons.
- The Pool Operator Level 1 Course is once again being held here in Taber. The instructors like coming here to Taber as we have a great teaching facility with all of the technology we have in place and unique set up with salt water.
- The Town is happy to report it's going to be a very busy year with many large events: National Indigenous Day, Multicultural Day, Midget Provincial Tournament, and Summer Games. More to come on these events.

- OHS has been mandated to do inspections of all arenas in Alberta as a follow-up from the incident in Fernie. An inspector visited our facilities and the Town received an excellent score and has been asked to share information with other municipalities. Staff has been in contact with many towns already and is happy to help out wherever needed. Congratulations to the Staff for their dedication to safety!

RES. 07/2018 MOVED by D. Firth that the Recreation Board accepts the material received in this Agenda Item as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D) Recreation Activity Report

A question arose about how to get the Town of Taber to advertise for community events and everyone was encouraged to let A. Holmen or Meghan Brennan (Town of Taber Communication and Project Coordinator) know and they would be glad to promote the community event.

RES. 08/2018 MOVED by Councillor L. Tams that the Recreation Board accepts the Recreation Report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E) Recognition Awards - None

MEDIA INQUIRIES

G. Price asked about the status of the fieldhouse group that presented to the Recreation Board months ago. Chairperson D. Hansen responded that the group was going to investigate grants/funding and return and they have not yet requested to come back.

CLOSED SESSION – None

CLOSE OF MEETING

RES. 09/2018 MOVED by D. Firth that this Regular Meeting of the Taber Recreation Board is hereby closed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 6:29 PM

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT



Recreation Board Request for Decision

Meeting Date: March 1, 2018

Subject: Recreation Master Plan

Recommendation:

The Recreation Board accepts the information regarding the 1985 Recreation Master Plan as presented.

The Recreation Board recommends Council consider partnering with the MD of Taber for the cost of a Regional Recreation Master Plan.

Background:

At the February 1, 2018 Recreation Board meeting, the members discussed the future of recreation in Taber and the Recreation Master Plan.

Administration was directed to complete the following:

- Bring back information from the 1985 Recreation Master Plan as a summary of what items were completed.
- Provide information on some of the latest trends in Recreation
- Provide costs for the completion of the current Recreation Master Plan

Attached you will find all the information requested.

While doing some research regarding the completion of the current Recreation Master Plan another option has presented itself and can be viewed in the document provided by RC Strategies. Under the new requirements for the MGA (Municipal Government Act), the Town of Taber will be required to develop an Inter-municipal Collaborative Framework of which Recreation is one of the components. Serious consideration should be given to Option #2 as this would assist the Town of Taber and the MD of Taber with this task in the future.

Legislation / Authority:

Recreation Bylaw 2-2009

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Create and promote all season recreational facilities that are regionally recognized.

Financial Implication:

There are no funds currently budgeted for either Option #1 or Option #2 regarding completion of the Recreation Master Plan.



Service Level / Staff Resource Implication:	Staff resources would be required to prepare the procurement process as well as work with the successful company to complete the Plan.
Justification:	The Recreation Board has asked for information on this subject. Completion of the Recreation Master Plan and specifically a Regional Recreation Master Plan would provide clarity and direction for Administration, the Recreation Board and both Councils, and assist with budgets and planning into the future.
Alternative(s):	<p>The Recreation Board may choose to accept the information regarding the Recreation Master Plan options as presented.</p> <p>The Recreation Board may choose to complete the existing Recreation Master Plan as identified in Option #1 of the proposal.</p>
Attachment(s):	<p>1985 Recreation Master Plan Summary Recreation Trends Report 2016 Recreation Master Plan Trends RC Strategies Correspondence</p>

APPROVALS:	
Originated By:	Aline Holmen
Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or Designate:	

1985 Recreation Master Plan Summary

Recommendation	Priority	Outcome
Build an indoor pool with a leisure pool, integrate with complex	Short Term	Completed in 1991
Second Large Ice Arena	Long Term	Recommended it be on the south side where the pool now sits, not completed due to lack of evidence to support the need
Parks and Playgrounds - consideration for larger playground spaces that serve a larger area rather than a playground in every development - eliminate smaller playground areas	Short Term	The elimination of smaller playgrounds was not undertaken, possibly due to the fact that these areas were built with donated funds. Planning of these spaces has improved and is completed through Planning with the developers.
Ball diamonds - increase league schedules to 6 days/week to get better usage of existing diamonds and build two diamonds at Westlake school.	Short Term	Due to current standards I would suggest 6 days/week did not fit with the user groups scheduling. There has been in the last two years, been a league added that plays on the weekend. Two diamonds were built at LT Westlake School
Ball Diamonds - build a site that is centralized with high quality diamonds that tournament quality	Long Term	KMMSC Sportsfield was built and opened in 2000
Museum - determine a location for a museum space	Short Term	Completed with the location in the Community Centre
Air Cadet Hall - that groups continue to use the hall as long as possible	Long Term	Significant renovations have been completed at the facility over the years and the facility is currently leased to the Taber Legion.
Taber Golf Course/Curling - relocate ball diamond/batting cage and tennis court providing sufficient space for additional golf holes. Explore expansion of curling sheets.	Long Term	The ball diamonds/batting cage and tennis court were relocated. Additional golf holes were not completed due to construction development in that area.
Centralized Indoor Recreation Facilities - that all new indoor spaces should be developed with and be a part of the Community Centre	Ongoing	The Aquafun Centre was an addition in 1991 to the Community Centre. New dressing rooms were added in 2015. This area has been a consideration for other recreational uses.
Community/School Relationships - create a Joint Use Agreement	Short Term	This was completed and has since expired but will be required with the revisions to the MGA Act in regards to collaboration.

Fish Pond/Rifle Range - assist Fish and Game Assoc with long term development and maintenance	Short Term	The understanding is that there were improvements made at that time but not continued. This is now back to the forefront.
Recreation Dept - become more service oriented and continue community programming with the Program Coordinator	Short Term	This role was discontinued prior to 2001 with dept restructuring when programming was determined to be best suited for the user groups to facilitate.
Department Marketing - improve communications with community through a recreation brochure, sports registration nights and demo days	Short Term	This may have occurred, however was discontinued along the way. Over the last ten years all of those were brought back into the fold. Registration events for the community ceased in 2017 as many of the groups now have online registration.
Regional Recreation Agreement - recommended that the Town and the MD once again enter into this agreement for coordination of projects, planning and development of major facilities, support for service clubs and agencies, broader communication and programming	Short Term	Administration is not aware of such an agreement but it may have occurred. There has not been such an agreement in place for many, many years but is now coming back to the forefront with the requirement of the MGA and Inetr-municipal Collaboration.
Community Centre - Maintenance of building required due to wear and tear	Ongoing	For the most part, until recently there has been minimal work completed to the buildings.
Auditorium Lights - install electrical panels and light bars for Performing Arts	Short Term	Unsure if this was ever completed.
Auditorium - add additional space for storage	Short Term	Not completed, however, it is the understanding that accommodations were made for gymnastics to a certain degree. Not ideal.

Recreation Trends

Various trends have been identified in the Recreation Master Plan (see attached pages). The Recreation Board has asked for some information on newer trends that are occurring in other communities.

There seems to be a real shift towards free, accessible play and participation opportunities. These include things like:

- Outdoor Fitness Areas
- Programming in the Park
- Community Gardens
- Trail systems – walking, biking, hiking
- A focus on green space and back to nature styled play
- Sprayparks
- Skateboard Parks
- Kayak and paddleboard opportunities

What we are seeing for indoor facilities are still some of the tried and true sports like basketball, hockey and swimming but we are also noticing other options such as:

- Indoor playgrounds
- Gym/Workout equipment that is arranged for a team environment as opposed to single use
- Indoor Climbing Walls/Tracks
- Yoga/Fitness Rooms whereby the instructor is on a programmed screen
- Areas for smaller children within arenas/complexes
- Aquatic Centres have therapy pools and more spray features like splashparks
- New sports such as pickleball, bubble soccer
- Building in Parent and Tot classes
- Body and Fitness training
- Therapeutic recreation and educational enrichment programs

The model appears to have reverted back to programming:

- Programming is huge in relation to community program initiatives such as High Five, Participation, Everybody Gets to Play, Choosewell Challenge
- Programming activities noted above – the “mommy and me” style fitness and educational programs
- Drop in activities such as Nerf Wars or movie events

RECREATIONAL TRENDS

(Source – *Foundations for Action – Enhancing the Quality of Life in Alberta*)

Listed below are a variety of trends that pertain to the Province of Alberta. The source for this information comes from *Alberta Recreation and Parks Association – Foundations for Action – Enhancing Quality of Life in Alberta*. The trends listed play a big role in the project “Vision 2015”. This project is designed to change the way municipalities and stakeholders view recreation in the province with set goals to effect change. These are larger level trends, prepared at the provincial level, but many of these trends are evident and applicable to Taber as a community. This is evidenced in feedback from our users and in the workshop comments. In order to be effective, we have to change the way we think and carry out actions.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Growing and increasingly diverse, Alberta needs recreations and parks services that are affordable, culturally sensitive, welcoming and appealing to a wide range of ages. At present, some who could benefit most from these essential services are poorly served.

- 1. Young yet aging.** An influx of young workers has made Alberta the youngest province in Canada. But our average age is climbing as child/youth cohorts shrink and many baby boomers enter retirement. By 2050, more than a quarter of Albertans will be 65 plus.
Implications: Expect school closures and lower registration in children’s programs coupled with rising demand among older adults for leisure services previously associated with middle age.
- 2. Canada’s fastest growing province.** Every year since the turn of the century, Alberta has posted the nation’s strongest population growth.
Implications: Communities are experiencing more demand for services and greater pressure on natural capital.
- 3. Growing aboriginal population.** One in every 20 Albertans is aboriginal: nearly half are under age 20. More than three quarters live off the reserve. Earning lower than average income, they struggle with lifestyle-related health issues.
Implications: It is crucial to ensure that Aboriginal peoples have access to effective and culturally sensitive wellness initiatives, recreation programs, services and facilities.
- 4. Increasing diversity.** Nine out of every ten visible minority Albertans live in Calgary or Edmonton but smaller, rural communities are home to newcomers, seniors, singles and others who may be at risk for isolation.
Implications: There is a growing need to address language barriers, educate staff about cultural sensitivity and match programs and services to increasingly diverse interests.



5. **Rural to urban shift.** Many rural communities are losing youth and shrinking in size as urban centres grapple with expansion.

Implications: Both urban and rural communities are struggling. Urban growth rarely pays for itself in property tax income, while loss of businesses and jobs makes it hard for smaller centres to sustain the services and amenities needed and desired by residents.

6. **Shallower roots.** People are putting down less permanent geographical roots and forming international communities of interest. But they seek “people places” that are alive and active as well as attractive places that invite creativity, celebrate diversity and nurture growth.

Implications: Communities cannot settle for mediocrity, sprawl, intolerance, disparity, exclusivity, and environmental degradation. To thrive, they need inviting people places, parks and streetscapes that offer authentic cultural and recreational experiences.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Whether measured in dollars or in human benefit, the significance of recreation and parks is escalating as the Alberta economy shifts from resource extraction to knowledge-based enterprises. Besides fueling creativity, active leisure pursuits have the potential to save health dollars and build bridges between citizens who otherwise would not benefit from knowing each other.

1. **A shifting economy.** Alberta can expect moderate growth coupled with lower than normal unemployment until conventional oil and natural gas sources significantly decline. In-migration of workers will continue, although slower than last decade. Success will depend on our ability to grow a value added knowledge-based, green economy.

Implications: Potential exists for increased investment in recreation, parks, and other leisure services, particularly those that clearly enhance health and wellness, improve quality of life, add economic value and steward the environment.

2. **Shifting wealth.** People older than 50 hold more than half of North America’s wealth, although the shift of wealth to the elderly is tempered in Alberta by young urban professionals and resource workers. The older cohort is no longer least able to pay for services, yet seniors continue to receive the deepest discounts in many cases.

Implications: While remaining vigilant and sensitive to the needs of low-income seniors, it is important to support younger Albertans who are less able to afford recreation and parks services.



3. **Growing gap between rich and poor.** Personal bankruptcy and credit card debt are higher in Alberta than the national average, and many individuals face financial pressure. Evidence of lost human potential is stark. More than 80% of low income Albertans report chronic conditions, compared to about 55% of upper income Albertans.

Implications: As the field's preventive and remedial capacities become more widely understood, recreation and parks will be challenged to offer strategic leadership and effective solutions. In that light, it's crucial to address the fact that increasing reliance on fees for programs and services impacts affordability and accessibility.

4. **Recreation and parks gaining significance.** In recent years, recreation and parks has tended to be seen as a frill and thus secondary (even tertiary) to other services. Now there is a promising shift, at least in rhetoric, to triple-bottom line public planning that places social/cultural and environmental goals alongside economics. Even in purely economic terms, recreation injects more than \$2.2 billion into Alberta's GDP and creates 22 000 FTEs of direct employment, and is growing. Private recreation enterprises are likely growing faster than public ones, but parks remain primarily public.

Implications: Economic stature and acute need enhance the field's ability to advocate for expanded investment. What better time for recreation and parks to shoulder its historic role as an agent of wellbeing and quality of life.



ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS

Dramatic evidence that we are reaching a tipping point in our abuse of the environment is tapping a groundswell of citizen action. Governments, corporations and recreation and parks leaders lag behind at a time when environmental leadership is utterly crucial.

1. **Climate change is proving real.** Although the cause is still debated, average global temperature is expected to climb five to eight degrees this century. Already we are seeing accelerated glacial melting, threatened ecosystems and exaggerated swings in weather.

Implications: Climate disruption will dictate many operational changes including dramatic reductions in resource use. Extreme weather events will directly impact the field. Outdoor interpretive programs offer excellent venues for helping citizens understand the significance of climate change.

2. **Looming water scarcity.** Water is already a pivotal environmental issue, especially in southern Alberta. Demand continues to rise even as water supply dwindles due to retreating glaciers and reduced snow pack.

Implications: Local governments must play a lead role in ensuring that water is used wisely by individuals as well as public and private institutions. Necessary strategies include improved watershed management, drought resistant plantings, automated low-use irrigation and low-flush toilets. Aquatic facilities, in particular, will need to rethink how they operate. The provincial Water for Life Strategy deserves careful attention by all involved.

3. **Growing sense of stewardship.** With climate change a front-burner issue, grassroots concern about our environment is combusting into action on many fronts, from local food and community garden movements to land use trusts to watershed advocacy.

Implications: Already challenged by drought and other extreme weather events, recreation and parks must prepare for even more significant shifts, modeling foresight and stewardship.

4. **Designing with Nature.** Sprawling suburbs enclosed by security fences have consumed vast tracts of land while turning the car into a necessity. Belatedly, communities are realizing the wisdom of design that invites mixed uses, walking, biking and other active, environmentally friendly transportation. We are also learning to build in ways that produce rather than consume energy.

Implications: Recreation and parks must advocate community design that invites active living and transportation, and governments must make sustainable, healthy design the norm rather than the exception.



BEHAVIORAL TRENDS

Epidemic obesity and other chronic illnesses due to sedentary living up the ante for recreation and parks, which holds the expertise to pull people into healthier lifestyles. The field must respond to key trends, including a shift to less structured short-term leisure and volunteer experiences.

1. **Epidemic obesity and inactivity.** Canadian children are 40% less active than 30 years ago, and childhood obesity has tripled. More than half of Canadian adults say they are overweight (35%) or obese (16%). Although the number of Albertans who are regularly active rose to 54% in 2005, up from 26% in 1981, nearly half are still not active enough for health benefits. Older Canadians are even less active, at a time in life when activity is integral to managing chronic disease.

Implications: Coordinated action by recreation, health, education and families is urgently needed to translate awareness about the health benefits of physical activity into positive behavior change. Recreation and parks is well positioned to facilitate the shift through active lifestyle coaching and concentrated attention to physical literacy from an early age.

2. **Leisure snatched on the go.** Most Albertans say they value leisure time more than work, yet many are challenged to integrate leisure into their lives. Feeling rushed, they do leisure in small chunks, often multi-tasking.

Implications: Recreation and parks can serve genuine needs by providing islands of calm amid the hubbub of life. Programs need to be flexibly packaged, with fewer long courses and more short workshops. It's crucial to minimize or eliminate waiting times and to reduce any feeling of being rushed. Quality assurance is also increasingly important.

3. **Clear shift away from structured activities.** Many Albertans seek individualized, informal pursuits (walking, gardening, crafts, hobbies, bicycling) that can be done at flexible times near or at home. Only a third sign up for organized sport, a sharp decline from earlier decades.

Implications: A concerted shift is needed from facility-based programming to trails, passive parks, needs-based drop-in programs and other flexible offerings that are fun and "for life".

4. **Episodic volunteerism.** Although Alberta is still ahead of the pack in volunteerism, today's volunteers are less numerous and more apt to want shorter stints than in the past. Retiring baby boomers offer an excellent pool of talent that could help address volunteer gaps and burnout.

Implications: Tasks must be sliced into smaller segments, which increases the number of volunteers needed. Seniors can help fill gaps, but must be recruited and supported well.



RECREATION PROGRAMMING AND DELIVERY TRENDS

Given the importance of physical activity and play at all ages, it is essential to rebuild capacity and ensure excellence in community recreation and sport programs and services.

1. **Ensuring quality programming.** Children need quality play to develop into healthy adults who are assets in their communities. Yet children are dropping out of sport programs, and less than one in five adults in a national 2002 survey said they were confident that community sports are promoting positive values and building character. **Implications:** Specific strategies to ensure the quality of children's recreation activities are essential, to get serious about children's "creative play".
2. **Rebuilding community sport.** Despite commitments made to community sport in the 2002 Canadian Sport Policy and 2003 Alberta Sport Plan, governments continue to focus more on high-performance sport than on grassroots and developmental programs. Recent restraint has further fractured the system as communities attempt to deliver more and become more accountable with fewer resources. **Implications:** With the onus for grassroots program development remaining at the local level, it is essential to unite and reorient the energy of local sports organizations, community, city and school boards. A similar challenge faces the nonprofit sport community supporting high performance athletes.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP TRENDS

Recreation and parks has always worked closely with other sport, culture and youth serving organizations. Now the circle is expanding to include health, social services, justice, education, the corporate sector and community service agencies. Forging partnerships demands expanded skills at the very time when recreation and parks is losing many leaders to retirement.

1. **Partnering across quality of life fields.** In some municipalities, recreation and parks have been integrated into larger community services departments that may also include libraries and other services. Traditional joint-use agreements with education are expanding to include planning and programming to address youth inactivity and other community needs. Reaching across departments, the field works with police on public safety and youth initiatives: with planning and engineering on greenways and active transportation. **Implications:** Shared roles and increased accountability demand dramatically expanded skills, both to deliver recreation and parks services and to advocate for the fields' capacity to deliver increasingly important upstream benefits.
2. **Public-private partnerships.** Across Alberta, public-private partners construct new facilities, private operators run public facilities and public services are contracted out. To be successful, those partnerships need strong and comprehensive agreements, improved accountability and excellent communication.



Implications: Forging and evaluating public/private partnerships requires contract management competencies that have not been traditional in the field. Relevant training is essential to improve partnership outcomes and to ensure public policy outcomes are achieved.

3. **Embracing new technology.** Recreation and parks benefits from numerous technologies, including bar-coded entry systems, web-based program registration, improved facility security, GIS mapping and voice-activated PDAs. Used well, those technologies manage and track information, model alternative courses of action, expedite customer service and improve education and awareness.

Implications: New technology and communications would be embraced and used to optimize key programs and services without replacing personal interaction.

4. **Fluid work.** Employee loyalty has shifted from the organization to the team. Younger workers expect to participate in decision making and are more apt to choose self-employment, part-time work, flexible schedules and team-based projects whose goals match their own.

Implications: Frequent shifts in staffing will occur, and there will be increased weekday use of facilities and open spaces especially casual drop-in use.

5. **Leadership and staffing gaps.** Baby boomers hired during the rapid expansion of the '70s are approaching retirement at a time when leadership and knowledge capital are already eroded due to the cutbacks and bottom-line management of the '90s. An even more significant gap is opening at the entry level, both in recreation and parks and in non-profit society management.

Implications: The future of the field demands focused attention to recruitment, training and succession planning.

6. **Liability, insurance, injury.** Insurance costs are rising, as are community and legal expectations that recreation programs be safe. Yet volunteer recreation and parks organizations have limited capacity to develop risk management programs and pay high insurance rates. Injuries do occur, especially in the more extreme sports that attract youth. Nor is injury the only risk, particularly for those with an overwhelming urge to win.

Implications: Issues such as liability, illegal use of drugs, over-training and eating disorders need united research and response. Risk management should not be a constraint to active citizen participation in recreation activities.



INFRASTRUCTURE TRENDS

Wild swings in funding for local recreation infrastructure have left Alberta with an inventory of aging, single-use facilities plus a handful of newer multiplexes that heavily depend on user fees to balance budgets. As a result, many Albertans lack access to inviting facilities while others stay away because they cannot afford the fees.

1. **Aging infrastructure.** Funding for Alberta's community recreation infrastructure dropped sharply in the 1990s, and remains much lower than in prior decades. Much of that infrastructure is entering the last quarter of its viable life and suffering from insufficient capital maintenance. Analysis of more than 130 facilities by ARPA and partners found many older facilities with envelope, code, mechanical and slab problems. Multipurpose centres built in the 1980s are in better shape but need work, particularly the aquatics components. Few communities have undertaken proper lifecycle capital maintenance.

Implications: Besides being a significant drain on municipal budgets, many facilities are ill-suited to today's mix of recreation interests and pose health, safety and access concerns. Upgrading Alberta's pools, arenas and curling rinks would cost at least \$314 million, with replacement cost as high as \$1.7 billion. Communities also must commit to lifecycle planning and management of their facilities.

2. **Bilateral commitment to renewal.** In August 2005, the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity identified sport and recreation infrastructure as their top priority and committed to a bilateral strategy for renewal, with municipalities responsible for operation and maintenance funds. Reinvestment, to date, has included Alberta's two-year Major Community Facilities Grant Program and eligibility as fundable elements in other capital grant programs.

Implications: Continued advocacy is needed for ongoing capital funding that is tied to lifecycle planning. Upgrades and new recreation facilities must be environmentally sound and should consider integrating related services that augment health and wellness.

3. **Serving multiple sectors.** Interest is growing in multi-service centres that meet a broad range of quality of life needs. This one-stop approach not only suits multiple interests but increases the likelihood that diverse community members will build rapport.

Implications: It's essential for recreation and parks to work with residents and with other Quality of Life fields to create facilities that suit emerging patterns and encourage more people to be active and engaged in community life.



HEALTH PROMOTION AND WELLNESS TRENDS

No single discipline has the resources to mobilize individuals, let alone entire communities, to dramatically increase their physical activity. Nor can we rely on mass media alone to promote good health. People need consistent, relevant messages and models that reach them where they live, work and play.

1. **Collaborative health promotion.** Increasingly, local, provincial, national and international organizations are teaming up on integrated initiatives grounded in determinants of health. ARPA can play a key role by connecting recreation and parks staff with nutritionists, doctors and other health professionals who are responsible for promoting physical activity but may not have the expertise or resources to give concrete recommendations. The field can also help to identify the recreation interest of specific segments of the market. Although recreation and parks has done effective work in confirming its wide ranging benefits, those have not been communicated in a way that engages other sectors.

Implications: Recreation and parks must put energy into demonstrating the crucial contributions it can make to a community based health and wellness model.

2. **Plethora of messages.** Increased focus on physical activity as a key to population health has resulted in multiple and sometimes conflicting messages. Recommended physical activity levels vary from one disease to another, and nutrition information can be equally confusing. Yet the groundswell of promotion does open opportunities for action. Concern about obesity, for example, is spurring support for increased physical activity in communities, schools and workplaces.

Implications: All fields must work across boundaries to capitalize on communication opportunities and avoid confusing citizens with conflicting messages.

GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNANCE TRENDS

There is a marked shift from top-down government to shared governance, both to stretch public dollars and in the hope of developing social capital as people work together. Governments are increasingly apt to speak of social and economic policy as inter-related and equally in need of investment, although actions do not always match those words.

1. **Shift to shared governance.** Public services and goods increasingly involve partnerships and citizen engagement.

Implications: Shared governance provides new opportunities to demonstrate the upstream benefits of recreation and parks. It also demands new skills, including facilitation and collaborative leadership, especially at the local community level.

2. **Sharply diminished provincial leadership and funding.** Provincial government funding of recreation and culture declined more than 40% in recent decades even as more responsibilities devolved to local governments. Fully 95% of municipal recreation



and parks expenditures now come from local revenues, prompting a 90% increase in user fees over a decade.

Implications: Cost has replaced time constraints as a leading barrier to participation. Recreation and parks must seek funding from the corporate sector while aggressively advocating for inter-ministry/public sector investments.

3. **Softening of the “fiscal agenda”?** The fiscal restraint, cutting of the 1990s has given way to a more balanced approach that recognizes local needs. Alberta’s rural development strategy, for example, commits to supporting programs, youth leadership and infrastructure with the hope of revitalizing rural communities.

Implications: Funding may be available for services that improve quality of life, but outcomes must be clearly demonstrated. The recreation and parks field will need to engage directly with agencies and departments responsible for rural development.

4. **Municipalities emerging as a major force.** Both federal and provincial governments are increasingly apt to treat local governments as significant players rather than merely “children of the province”.

Implications: The time is ripe for communities to advocate for the capacity and senior level government support to ensure that citizens receive full access to essential recreation and parks services.



Recreation and Parks Planning Project



February 23rd, 2018

Aline Holmen, Director of Recreation

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RE: Recreation and Parks Planning

Aline,

Thank you for your email on February 16, 2018 and subsequent telephone conversations. As per our discussion, the following memo is meant to outline a couple options that we see the Town has in developing more comprehensive recreation and parks planning. Much good work has been done by Town staff in preparing the 2016 Recreation Master Plan; good work that we understand you would like to see supplemented with more focused and detailed planning regarding project priorities, capital costing, and service delivery recommendations.

It is also important to note that since the current Plan was developed in 2016, the planning context has evolved. The Modernized MGA and associated changes coming into effect on April 1, 2018 will require municipalities to explore opportunities for collaboration with municipal neighbors in the provision of recreation services. As well, the endorsements of both the National Recreation Framework and Parks for All initiatives warrant consideration for local level recreation and parks planning. For these reasons, we have provided a high level outline of two different approaches the Town and Recreation Board could take moving forward. Both are outlined as follows with associated costs and benefits.

Consideration	Approach #1	Approach #2
Overall intent	Update and enrich the current 2016 Master Plan	Develop a new Regional Recreation Master Plan using the 2016 Plan as a starting point.
Tasks included	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of a prioritization tool to prioritize potential projects. 2. Analyze the current service delivery system and provide recommendations for enhancement. 3. Provide high level capital and operating costs related to #1 and #2 above. 4. Produce a 2018 Recreation Master Plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partner with the M.D. of Taber to develop a regional plan. 2. Conduct thorough public and stakeholder engagement with both Town and M.D. residents and groups. 3. Update related research (trends, benchmarking, planning influences, etc.). 4. Identify priorities for infrastructure, programs, and service delivery. 5. Provide high level capital and operating costs related to #1 and #2 above. 6. Produce a 2018 Regional Recreation Master Plan.

Consideration	Approach #1	Approach #2
Timing	2 – 3 months	6 – 10 months
Budget Range	\$15,000 – \$20,000	\$60,000 – \$90,000
Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds upon 2016 effort and brings information to 2018 state. • Completes planning related to Town of Taber specific needs and plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables the Town and MD to work together to identify priorities and strategic directions (in alignment with Inter-municipal Collaboration Framework requirements). • Engages all regional residents. • Builds upon 2016 effort and brings information to 2018 state.

We would expect that either approach will help the Town get to a more defined state regarding the future of recreation and parks in the community. Although approach #1 may lead to a more strengthened relationship with the M.D. should they be involved in taking the existing Plan to the next stage, approach #2 would be ideal in getting regional buy-in to a Plan for recreation and parks.

This memo is intended to provide two alternative approaches for the Town and Recreation Board to consider moving forward. RC Strategies+PERC would likely provide a proposal of services via competitive bid process in the event either approach is taken.

The budget ranges outlined are consistent with other similar projects tendered in Alberta over the past 6 months. In other regions, the development of regional recreation and parks plans have been funded by both urban and rural partners and in some cases provincial grants have been available for these types of regional planning exercises. Both cost sharing and grants may ultimately reduce planning costs for the Town.

I hope this helps the Town and the Board with its strategic thinking regarding best next steps. If you need anything else, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Thanks for the opportunity to prepare this memo.

Sincerely,



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Recreation Board Request for Decision

Meeting Date: March 1, 2018

Subject: Information for the Recreation Board

Recommendation:

That the Recreation Board accepts the material received in this Agenda Item, as information.

Background:

This communication is provided simply as information for the Recreation Board and no comment is needed. In some cases, though, the Recreation Board may wish to seek clarification on the matter from Administration, or even challenge the matter through discussion. Placing the information on the Recreation Boards agenda allows these opportunities.

1. Southern Alberta Summer Games – planning continues for the games. Currently we in planning phases for each sporting event. We are currently looking to recruit a sport chairperson for 3 on 3 basketball and badminton. We have determined a logo and have begun our sponsorship campaign.
2. February is Heart Month – the various events held for the month have been very successful. The fitness challenge is very popular. The facility was very busy for Family Week.
3. Arena – March is a busy month in the arena. For the next five weeks we are hosting either tournaments, a carnival or provincials for the Midgets.

Legislation / Authority:

N/A

Strategic Plan Alignment:

General Information therefore does not specifically apply

Financial Implication:

Costs will be associated with various items listed above as per the 2018 Operating budget.

Service Level / Staff Resource Implication:

Staff resources to be utilized for all items listed above.



Justification:	To keep the Recreation Board informed of current municipal information and correspondences.
Alternative(s):	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Recreation Board could seek clarification on any matters from Administration.2. The Recreation Board could discuss, in depth, any of the matters raised by this communication and take action through a resolution.

Attachment(s):	
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APPROVALS:	
Originated By:	Aline Holmen
Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or Designate:	



Recreation Board Request for Decision

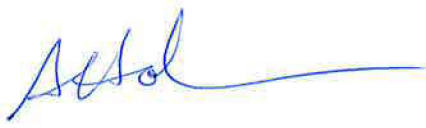
Meeting Date: March 1, 2018

Subject: Recreation Activity Report

Recommendation:	The Recreation Board accepts the Recreation Report for information.
Background:	The report is supplied for Recreation Board information. In most cases, this communication is provided simply as information and no comment is needed. In some cases, the Recreation Board may wish to seek clarification on a matter through discussion. Placing the communication on the agenda allows for these opportunities.
Legislation / Authority:	MGA, Section 207 (c)
Strategic Plan Alignment:	No direct alignment.
Financial Implication:	No financial implications.
Service Level / Staff Resource Implication:	Not applicable for the purposes of this report.
Justification:	To keep the Recreation Board informed of happenings within the Recreation Department.
Alternative(s):	The Recreation Board could seek clarification on any of the matters in the report.



Attachment(s):	Recreation Activity Report
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APPROVALS:	
Originated By:	Aline Holmen
Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or Designate:	



ACTIVITY REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Recreation Feb 2018

Budget Categorization	Strategic Plan Alignment (Goals and Initiatives)	Associated Projects & Tasks
Projects and tasks expected and approved under the 2017 Capital Budget	Create and promote all-season recreational facilities that are regionally recognized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work on Walking Trail Extension Project.
	To improve the quality of life for Town residents and following a recreation master plan, invest in the Town's recreation facilities and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation Software continues to be utilized and developed. Preparing for Phase 2 development.
Projects and tasks expected and approved under the 2017 Operational Budget	Create a team work environment that is safe, customer focussed and employee friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to assist and work with eCompliance Health and Safety Software. Procedures have been reviewed and updated. Now updating the Hazard Identification and controls functions as well as modifying the inspection templates for arena and parks function. • 0 minor safety incidents with staff in Jan. and regular safety meetings are occurring. • Arranging for training for staff for 2018 • Completed arena facility tour with OH&S and now we are sharing safe work procedures with other communities.
	Utilize work teams that are vertically and horizontally integrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and training is completed for the new Recreation Operator 1 position. • Recruiting for full time Lifeguard 2 position. • Looking ahead regarding coverage for an upcoming

		<p>Maternity Leave for Management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment discussions for summer seasonal staff occurring with HR
	<p>Create and promote all-season recreational opportunities and facilities that are regionally recognized</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Communications to promote Recreation through social media and the website. • Working on tasks associated with requests from the Recreation Board.
	<p>Beautify the community (e.g., vegetation and attractive entranceways, downtown streetscapes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating other communities and the financial contributions to support Recreation, Culture and Arts between the Towns and the rural districts. • Continue to maintain exterior garbage's at specific facilities including cemetery and Dog Park.
	<p>To improve the quality of life for Town residents and following a recreation master plan, invest in the Town's recreation facilities and opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer programming is underway at the Aquafun Centre. • Planning and purchasing underway for 2018 Operating and Capital budget allocations for maintenance.
	<p>Seek partnerships within the Taber area for recreational facility development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the community members forming a Baseball/Softball Society for future development of facilities.
	<p>Create an environment for hosting special events in Taber</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with user groups regarding tournaments and events in the Community Centre and Arena. March will see tournaments every weekend in the Arena. • Meeting held to review the Boxing Event held last July and ways to improve looking ahead to future matches. • Working on SASG (Southern Alberta Summer Games). Committee set up and planning is underway.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working with user groups with regards to Special Events occurring in Taber in 2018.
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