

3/2020

MINUTES OF THE TABER RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON September 3, 2020
AT 5:30 PM.

PRESENT: Danielle Hansen
Brett McCoy
Jeff Bronsch
Darcy Firth

ABSENT: Councillor Louis Tams
Reeve Merrill Harris
Councillor Garth Bekkering

ALSO PRESENT:
Dawn Phillips Director of Recreation
Kory Ostrup, Aquatic Supervisor
Marty Planger, Recording Secretary
Taber Times

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

RES. 15/2020 MOVED by B. McCoy that the Recreation Board adopt the agenda as amended, with the following changes

Move: 6. DELEGATIONS to be moved prior to Item 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

A) Disc Golf

Mr. William Friesen presented his request to work with the town to build a disc golf course at the Taber Trout Pond. Disc golf is a growing sport throughout Canada, especially during COVID-19 because it is inexpensive to build, maintain, and play. He reported that he has some sponsorship already to build a few holes. The sponsors only ask for advertising on the

tee pads. He was at this meeting to ask the town for the use of the land, not for any funding at this time. While the area by the paint ball park would be the first choice he recognizes it may be disruptive to the existing group, especially if both parks were busy. The Trout pond area would work well and it would add yet another great draw to the area.

Cost of installation would be nil as he has many volunteers and only involves a little landscaping and digging of pilot holes for the baskets to be inserted and cemented in. There are grants available which this project would qualify for as well. Ideally it would be eventually nice to have a few trees planted for shade and to make the course more challenging. 18 holes would be preferred by most users and be best to host tournaments and draw out of towners. Installation would only take 2-3 weeks once funding has been raised and approval received.

Mr. Friesen would like to become an approved dealer for disc sales and would then be able to sell discs. He also hopes to host a grand opening where he would have some to give-away to help promote the sport.

Maintenance would require some high cut mowing. The Board Members also asked about liability and Mr. Friesen said there would be very little as the course would not be built near any paths. The only other concerns raised was the presence of snakes near the proposed area and how dry the area gets in the heat of the summer. The cutting of the grass will help deter the snakes some, just like golf courses, however the area is not irrigated at this time.

The Recreation Board thanked Mr. Friesen for his presentation and were very interested in this project. They recognize that the interest in this sport is on the rise and it is very desirable because it's an inexpensive recreation to offer and a draw for out of towners as well.

RES. 16/2020 MOVED by B. McCoy that the Recreation Board accept the presentation made by William Friesen and Johnny Thiessen as information and support their initiative to be presented to Council at a future Council meeting

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B) Westview Playground Funding Request

Tod Pickerell was present on behalf of the Kinsmen Club of Taber who is working with Bruce Warkentin and residents of Westview Estates to fundraise to have a playground built in 2021. The group has raised just over \$80 000 of their \$137 017 goal. The project was unable to secure grant funding in 2020 and hope to be successful in 2021, however are here to ask for support to go to Council for funding in 2021 budget to cover the shortfall in case the grants are not approved once again. If grants were successful,

any of the budgeted funds not required for this project would be returned to the town. The amount requested at this time would be \$75 000.

The Recreation Board thanked everyone involved for their amazing fundraising efforts during these tough economic times. This shows there is a need/want for this playground and there is not any nearby the area.

RES. 17/2020 MOVED by D. Firth that the Recreation Board support the Westview Estates Playground funding request to go to Council for consideration in the 2021 Capital Budget contingent on the project not having success in acquiring grant funding.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

A) Regular meeting – June 4, 2020

RES. 18/2020 MOVED by D. Firth that the Recreation Board adopts the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Recreation Board held on June 4, 2020, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - NONE

ACTION ITEMS

A) Ken McDonald Memorial Sports Complex – Tree Proposal

The Kinsmen Club of Taber has been working with the town to complete the forth diamond at the Ken McDonald Memorial Sports Complex and is just about complete. They have approximately \$5 839.76 remaining in their budget and is asking form permission to purchase and install 76 Assiniboine Poplar trees along the fence line.

The Parks and Irrigation crew are concerned that the irrigation doesn't quite reach the entire area enough to ensure the successful growth of the proposed trees, and recommend expanding the irrigation prior to the planting of the trees. The west side would require more work/money as there is no existing infrastructure to tie into. Tree bags, manual irrigation or running of hoses are options however extremely taxing on our limited staff.

The Board Members agreed that irrigation must be installed prior to planting trees. There was one suggestion that full grown trees in that location may create a shadow problem in the evenings and causing a safety concern and when choosing the tree type this should be considered.

RES. 19/2020 MOVED by D. Firth that the Recreation Board recommends that the request to plant trees be presented to Council for consideration, with the recommendation that Council directs administration to budget for an expansion of the irrigation system before trees are planted at Ken McDonald Memorial Sports Complex.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B) Ken McDonald Memorial Sports Complex – Campground Enhancements

D. Phillips reported that this item was discussed in April of 2019 by the Recreation Board and at the time the members wanted to see the completion of the Trout Pond campground prior to making a decision on further upgrades to the camping at KMMSC. Now that camping is open at the Taber Trout Pond and the forth diamond is complete (making the complex more viable for larger tournaments), Council has requested administration look into the cost to add gravel pads, fire pits, and picnic tables to each of the 16 stalls at KMMSC camping area. Administration is bringing the quotes back to the Recreation Board for their recommendation.

The Board Members discussed the quotes and the majority liked the idea of the cheaper material options for the tables and fire pits to keep the costs down. Administration recommends the project to be a contracted project as it cannot be done in-house without other projects being put on hold. It was also mentioned that the RV gravel pads can be done at a later time, if the need arises. If this campground was to get used more regularly, the irrigation schedule would need to be revamped and possibly changed so it's not so powerful. D. Phillips also mentioned that this campground would have some better signage added as well as be included in some campground publications/websites for more exposure in the upcoming year.

RES. 20/2020 MOVED by B. McCoy that the Recreation Board recommend further renovations to the KMMSC Campground being the 2nd estimate but with the changes of the most cost effective fire pits as well as the plastic A-framed picnic tables, for future budgets.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C) Memorial Tree Program Policy

Dawn Phillips presented a draft of a Memorial Tree Program Policy for the Boards discussion. The bench styles would vary depending on the parks theme however all products would be approved by the town. This program

would start as soon as it's approved and application would not have any deadlines. The completion time for approved applications would be dependent on other projects and staffing availability.

RES. 21/2020 MOVED by J. Bronsch that the Recreation Board supports the Memorial tree and Bench Policy PS-REC-12 and recommend it be presented to Council for approval.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D) Information for the Recreation Board

The Recreation Board Members reviewed all the points within this item and highlighting the following:

1. The pool relaunched successfully thanks to Kory and her pool staff
2. The Summer Programs were successful and the new format will be used again next year with morning and afternoon options
3. The Farmers' Market has been a HUGE success and will be run by the town next year, which we hope to add more entertainment on the stage weekly to make it more of a weekly event
4. Drop in numbers are continually monitored and reviewed. Volleyball nets are being ordered as soon as building maintenance confirms the floor anchors can be modified to work with them
5. Arena has received many upgrades: floors in the lobby, new concession, and paint. It looks great
6. Grants received for LED lighting at the Aquafun Centre and Community Centre, and were enough to make the town's portion very minimal.

The members would like to have a future meeting at the Community Centre (once COVID-19 restrictions ease up) to allow the members a chance to tour the Community Centre and take in all the changes.

RES. 22/2020 MOVED by D. Firth that the Recreation Board accepts the material received in this Agenda Item, as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E) Pandemic Impact – Procedures

The arena ice allocation falls under a Policy which does not allow the cancelation of ice once it has been allocated to all major ice users. With the recent Pandemic, administration has been asked for this Policy to be temporarily changed to allow for cancellation (without fees) if the organization has to cancel due to COVID cases in the club, team or organization.

Also, due to the Pandemic, there are a few passes that remain on hold at the Aquafun Centre, which staff are asking for permission to reactivate as of an approved date. At which time the client may be able to ask for a refund which would be calculated based on the time remaining only.

RES. 23/2020 MOVED by J. Bronsch that the Recreation Board supports the request for ice user fees to be refunded in the event that the team needs to cancel practices or the season due to COVID cases in the club, team, or organization to be presented to Council.

That the Recreation Board supports the recommendation that all Aquafun passes be reactivated effective October 1, 2020 and request Administration present this recommendation to Council for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MEDIA INQUIRIES - None

CLOSED SESSION

A) Recognition Request

Closed session to prevent disclosure of advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a municipality in accordance with Section 24 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

RES. 24/2020 MOVED by B. McCoy that the Recreation Board moves into Closed Session to prevent disclosure of advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a municipality in accordance with Section 24 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY at 7:14 pm

RES. 25/2020 MOVED by D. Firth that the Recreation Board reconvenes into Open Session.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY at 7:53 pm

CLOSE OF MEETING

RES. 26/2020 MOVED by J. Bronsch that this Regular Meeting of the Taber Recreation Board is hereby closed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 7:55 PM

Daniel J. Hansen

CHAIRMAN