

A meeting of the Recreation Committee was held this evening with Chairman Levasseur presiding and all Committee members in attendance with the exception of Deputy-Mayor Scott and Councillor Henderson. Staff members in attendance were Terry Lapierre, Chief Administrative Officer and Susan Ellis, Manager-Economic Development, Recreation and Tourism.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: On motion of Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Lafreniere
The minutes of the July 13, 2004 meeting were approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

1. DEPARTMENT REPORT

(a) Waterfront Festival

Ms. Ellis reported that the Festival came in \$3,780 under budget and saw 10,000 attendees at the events. Both the Bass Tournament participants and the Midway proceeds exceed 2003 values. This year there was a \$1.00 admission to both beer gardens that net \$920 but the fishing participants did not agree with the charge as they had already paid an entry fee.

Questionnaires were distributed at the end of the Festival and a Post Mortem meeting will be held September 14th to review comments made. Several people have already volunteered to be part of this group, including two who have indicated that they'd like to be sponsors next year.

In response to Chairperson Levasseur, the Bass Tournament is sponsored by Canadian Tire and does receive some extra assistance, but for the most part it is municipally run. Ms. Ellis commented that review of a sponsor group will be examined.

Councillor Lowe stressed the positive impact on the municipality and surrounding area from store purchases to accommodation rentals.

Mr. Lapierre has been asked to write a letter of appreciation to staff for an excellent job done.

(b) Hockeytown Ball Hockey League

The 2004 season was very successful and including a youth segment for the first time. This program was monitored by qualified local instructors with a format including 40% instruction and drills while the remaining time involved participants playing games and scrimmages.

\$375 per team was paid by 18 teams from around the area creating a profit of \$3,425. While using the City facilities a staff person was always present.

There has been some interest expressed in running the league by volunteers for the 2005 season which could include both recreational and competitive leagues. The possibility of holding the youth program at the Kinsmen Park Multi-Use Facility is up for discussion.

Committee members felt that if volunteers are willing to run the event, it would allow the municipality to act as the facilitator only and reduce duplication of such activities such as the number of summer hockey schools.

(c) Friends of the Kinsmen Pool

Their fundraising event held on September 6th at the Kinsmen Pool was a huge success with approximately 150 people in attendance. The final dollar amount raised by the volunteer committee by the end of the day totalled \$21,000. More events are planned before the end of the year to allow their Committee to meet its required goal of \$30,000.

Mayor Jacyno questioned if the municipality had missed a possible Trillium grant to help subsidize the pool. Ms. Ellis reported that these grants do not cover facility operating costs and would, therefore, not be eligible for funding.

(d) Fiddle Week

A review of the event is currently underway. During the week staff working at the Park were visited every four hours by senior staff to review any issues. Feedback received indicates the week progressed well with little issues except for an excessive amount of garbage by the Saturday night. A high demand of ice was also experienced and it is believe that all avenues in the City were utilized until there wasn't anymore ice available.

During the review of the event, the possibility of recycling in 2005 will be discussed and the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre should be contacted for input on how best to handle the large amount of recycling available to be collected.

Chairman Levasseur informed the Committee that there were 1,634 trailers in the park. Mulvihill Drug Mart west end location offered any overflow to use their vacant property behind their store, but the offer was not needed. As well, Zellers offered their parking lot to the Fiddle organizers to use as a holding zone for trailers to alleviate a heavy volume of traffic at the park. During this time, Zellers served coffee throughout the day.

Councillor O'Neill noted little damage to the soccer fields but inquired about aerating the grass that handled most of the traffic. Ms. Ellis noted that aeration and seeding is presently being completed.

(e) Canadian Forces Appreciation Day

This event attracted approximately 500 people to the Canadian Armed Forces Centre Band performance at the Amphitheatre on Friday night. The Appreciation Day on Saturday drew a crowd of around 10,000 people with lots of activities for all age groups including many for young children. Organizers will review for possibility of an annual event.

Councillor Lafreniere noted that it was great to see so many people who may not be privy to CFB Petawawa and activities to take part and enjoy the event.

2. 2004 TOURISM STATISTICS

These statistics cover both the Pembroke Welcome Centre and the Ottawa Valley Tourist centres in the area. All numbers show an increase in attendance to the area. It is important to note that the number of visitors is conservative as the figures only include those that stop at the centres and sign the guestbook.

3. NEWS ARTICLE, 1987

The news article highlights similar discussions underway with Council of the day and the use and retention of recreational facilities within the City. It is a clear indication that history does repeat itself.

In regard to further investigation into funding opportunities, Chairman Levasseur noted that a recent County meeting highlighted a new funding opportunity geared towards Health Living. It is not geared towards recreation but to health and fitness. A representative of the funding agency, County of Renfrew, is available to speak with Committee members. The opportunity has a deadline for submission of November 2004 with implementation in 2005.

Councillor O'Neill added that all recreational facilities are part of the quality of life but exceed budget limits to operate. With this in mind it must be understood that if we want recreational facilities, we have to support them. Councillor Lafreniere added that the question of how much subsidy does a municipality provide to a recreation facility is important to take into consideration. It appears that only certain sports are subsidized while others such as golf or curling are not.

4. TRILLIUM GRANT REVIEW FOR CHAMPLAIN

Committee members congratulated Susan Ellis on her recent provincial appointment to the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant Review Team for Champlain.

5. SKATEBOARD PARK

In response to Councillor Lafreniere, Ms. Ellis indicated that the park will remain in place until Thanksgiving. Ms. Ellis noted that this park is very well utilized every day. Councillor Lafreniere suggested review of grant opportunities to help clean-up and renew the park for 2005.

On motion of Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Severin, a caucus meeting of the Operations Committee will follow.

On motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Lowe the regular meeting of the Recreation Committee adjourned.