

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD, CLARA & MARIA

Minutes March 27, 2014

Minutes of a special meeting of Council and staff with members of the public interested in recreation held on Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 14:00 h. in the Municipal Hall.

Although the meeting held was not a true Council meeting in that resolutions were not presented for debate and decision; as four members of Council were in attendance, minutes and a record of the meeting must be kept.

1. ROLL CALL

The following were present Reeve Stewart Councillors: Jim Gibson, Debbi Grills and Bob Reid.

Absent: Councillor Antler

Staff: Melinda Reith - Clerk, Noella LeBreton - Treasurer, Gayle Watters - Admin Assistant, Wilfred Lamure - Road Super; Members of the public - Cathy and David Balla-Boudreau, John Reith, Marlene Gibson.

The meeting was held for the purpose of discussion and consideration of the establishment a community recreation committee and the need for programming. Council and staff along with members of the public were to brainstorm ideas for recreational programming with intent to present ideas to the public for their consideration and contributions. A public meeting date will be set by Council at its meeting to be held on March 28.

Following the response from the public meeting and acknowledging that ultimately any decision is that of Council, a policy will be created to direct programming for community/social gathering, health and wellness and recreation.

An 8 page document was provided with many questions which might be answered to provide specific programming and direction to staff. Components of that document will be streamlined and provided to the public for consideration and input at the public meeting. The entire document will be posted on-line once the new site is up and running.

It must be recognized that NO DECISIONS have been made at this time. Some components will be brought back to Council for decision. Others will be further discussed at the public meeting and then brought back to Council for decision.

Topics discussed included:

1. Legislation – Recreation, promotion of health, safety and well-being of persons, culture and heritage are all legislated responsibilities of municipal governments.
 - a. Regulation 797 of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation Act provides that a council of a local municipality may by by-law appoint a recreation committee.
 - b. It allows that a recreation committee may conduct one or more recreation programs, including recreation programs for children.
 - c. **Not discussed at the meeting the regulation further details that “A recreation committee shall be composed of at least five persons of whom at least two shall be members of the appointing body.”**
2. Need for committee.
 - a. Discussion occurred around a need for a committee to be formed to alleviate time pressures on staff. The committee would not be created to plan and host all events but would instead facilitate the hosting of events, initiated by community members; providing Council resources and policy direction for Council approved events.
 - b. The committee would not have the final say on what was to be held but would provide support for events that others would like to have on behalf of Council or to support improvements to municipal assets (Old Mackey Park).
 - c. The committee would also be responsible for hosting events approved by Council and would be able to make suggestions for long term

- improvements, programming to Council for consideration, acceptance and support.
 - d. Terms of Reference would be created specifically outlining what is expected of the committee, membership etc. and approved by Council.
 - e. Committee would be responsible for keeping the hall supplied, notifying staff of required repairs, recommending programming changes etc.
 - f. Meetings would be somewhat frequent in the beginning being educational and organizational in nature and function. Once a structure develops, meetings could be held as needed: prior to events, at the request of community members etc. Meetings would be advertised and open to the public ensuring that everyone is provided the information that the meetings are open, transparent and that everyone is entitled to contribute and participate
 - g. Public education to the purpose of the committee was considered paramount as past connotations and associations might scare people off. The goal is to have a committee which would supplement staff efforts to facilitate use of municipal resources by members of the public for many different types of events. The goal is not control or decision making.
3. Types of programming could include anything that residents or the committee suggest and organize. A list as per #8 in the original report to Council will be presented at the public meeting for additional input. In addition to dance/dinner type events, "recreation programming" might also include regular exercise activities, as well as lessons, training, presentations, debates, movies and/or children's programming. The benefits of intergenerational programming was discussed and supported.
 4. Hall Rental Fees were discussed. No decisions have been made at this time.
 - a. The issue of continued free use for residents/groups for enjoyment (as opposed to fundraising) and exercise is encouraged.
 - b. The hall would be provided for free or a low base fee for events initiated by community groups or individuals for the enjoyment, health and welfare and safety of persons, and open to the public.
 - c. Costs for outside users would be separate.
 - d. Discussion of a pro-rated/hourly rate based on length of time and number of users.
 - e. Base use for supplies and cleaning plus a refundable deposit was recommended
 - f. Discussion of revenue neutral? Comments that useage for community member's s/b free as the assets are owned by the ratepayers.
 - g. Survey of comparable rental fees will be brought back to Council for consideration.
 - h. Materials and supplies are to be included in hall rental/use expanded to include coffee cups, small drinking cups, coffee, sugar/tea/sweetener, napkins, basic kitchen supplies etc.
 5. Staff was directed to update policy and bring back to Council for discussion and approval.
 - a. Committee terms of reference.
 - b. Use of Facility Policy outlining Council approved uses which staff can then authorize per Council guidelines. As with any other policy, Council creates it; staff implement it.
 - c. Separate the current hall rental/use agreement from licensed event agreement.
 - d. Modify and update the Municipal Alcohol Policy.
 - e. Creation of Emergency Management guidelines to be followed for hall opening during events which close Highway 17 stranding people within the community.
 6. Council pre-approved events for 2014 include: St. Patrick's Day, Canada Day, Remembrance Day, New Year's Eve, and Summer Community Pancake Breakfast(s). Council members in attendance agreed in principle that a monthly or some other regular event, hosted by Council could be scheduled. Formal authority will be requested at the next Council meeting with more details and approval for spending. The slots could be regular as to time and day but type of event would

be open to suggestions from ratepayers. Craft days, hall decorating, Wii competitions, any type of lessons, Gospel sings, etc.

7. Discussion occurred around outdoor activity including:
 - a. Development of outdoor recreation trails with or with/out physical activity stations;
 - b. Organized hikes, specific subject/topic experts could be utilized for guided walks;
 - c. The ball diamond and/or Old Mackey Park and LaCroix park could be updated to include fitness stations for self-guided use;
 - d. Possibilities and opportunities are endless.

8. Issues to discuss during the public meeting.
 - a. Hold a vote on a committee name as the term "Recreation" seems limiting and holds negative connotations based on history. Hold a contest? Some suggestions:
 - i. Community Social Programming Committee - CSPC
 - ii. Community Activity Committee - CAC
 - iii. Community Building Committee - CBC
 - iv. Community Social Advisory Committee - CSAC

9. The consensus from the group was that grass roots activities, events and parties would be supported and encouraged provided that:
 - a. Overall costs were controlled;
 - b. there was the ability to generate revenue from some events to support continued programming;
 - c. there was Council authorization and oversight to allow for grant application (and liability insurance coverage);
 - d. Municipal policy is to be followed;
 - e. Volunteers provide the main drivers and labour to provide programming with support from staff.

10. It was recognized and discussed that no matter the decision, Council will not be able to satisfy everyone. Public perception and optics are important. All activities will be planned in an open and transparent manner. Unfortunately this does not mean that everyone will agree.
 - a. Some residents will not come out to events no matter what is planned and will disagree with money being spent in this manner. Their opinions need to be respected but so do those of the people who wish to participate.
 - b. Some residents are already complaining about some activities being held at the hall.
 - c. Some residents will come with the CAVE mentality. CAVE stands for "Citizens against Virtually Everything".
 - d. We know that these opinions exist but cannot be prevented from moving forward by those who continuously express negative comments.
 - e. There are some residents who may participate if events to their liking are being planned. This committee is to facilitate those individuals planning those events. They don't have to do all the work, but they do need to take the initiative.

11. The activities which have been planned over the past 6 months show that there are members of the community who like to be involved and appreciate being able to socialize with their neighbours.
 - a. Recreation programming is one of the only services that Council provides other than those which are legislated. Will people attend? We won't know until we try. We learn from experience and amend programming decisions as we learn.
 - b. The goal of this committee is to provide support to a grass roots movement facilitating the use of community resources by members of the community.
 - c. An additional goal will be to foster a sense of community within our small community and within the larger area. Excellent use of our resources will only help to promote the reputation of our area in the larger community.

Reeve – Tammy Lea Stewart

Clerk – Melinda Reith